



# Use Cases: PDF/A with PDFlib Products

*This document discusses various scenarios where PDF/A application problems can be solved with PDFlib GmbH products. The required minimum product versions are mentioned for each use case. The PDFlib Cookbook at [www.pdflib.com/pdflib-cookbook/](http://www.pdflib.com/pdflib-cookbook/) contains working code samples for the PDF/A use cases discussed in this document. For more details on PDF/A support in our products please refer to the whitepaper »Creating PDF/A with PDFlib Products«. The PDF/A implementation in PDFlib products conforms to the TechNotes published by the PDF/A Competence Center (see [www.pdfa.org](http://www.pdfa.org)).*

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**PDFlib 7: Add transparent stamps to PDF/A.** Many projects require the use of transparent stamps which are printed across the actual page contents in order to visualize some status information related to the document contents, such as »Confidential«, »Prerelease«, etc. However, the PDF/A standard does not allow the use of PDF's transparency feature. Using opaque (non-transparent) text for stamps means that the page contents will be obscured by the stamp text (or vice versa).

As a practical solution for this problem PDFlib supports the creation of transparent stamps in a way which conforms to the PDF/A standard. Similar to the well-known printing technique of raster cells, the transparency effect is achieved by spreading tiny little dots across the stamp text (technically, a PDF pattern color-space is created which is based on a bitmap mask, where the bitmap contains a raster cell pattern for the desired tint percentage). This way the stamp text appears transparent and does not obscure the underlying page contents, while the document still complies with PDF/A requirements.

Implementing this technique with PDFlib can be used to convert e.g. scanned pages to PDF/A while applying a transparent stamp as part of the TIFF-to-PDF/A conversion process. Implementing it with PDFlib+PDI provides a simple way of adding transparent stamps to existing PDF/A documents (note that this process will not keep interactive elements such as bookmarks or form fields, though).

**PDFlib PLOP 3.1: Insert custom XMP metadata in PDF/A documents.** In this scenario the user already has PDF/A documents, but wants to add custom XMP metadata to a number of existing documents. The source or creation process does not really matter; the PDF/A documents could e.g. be created from scanned paper input.

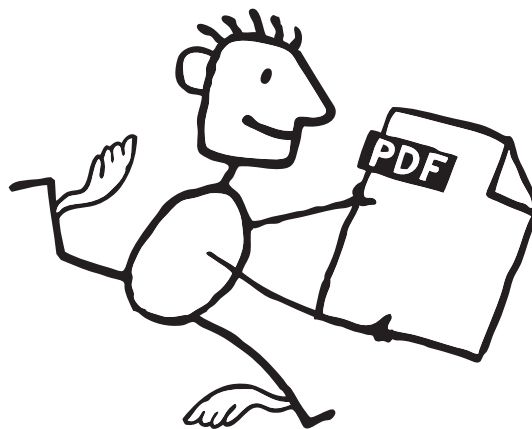
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