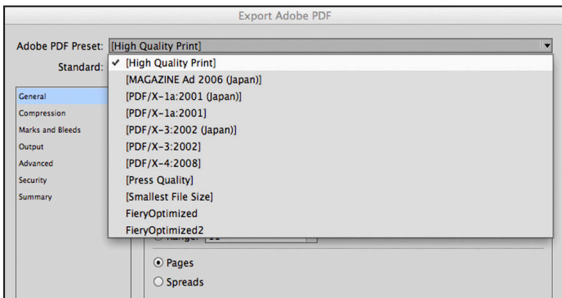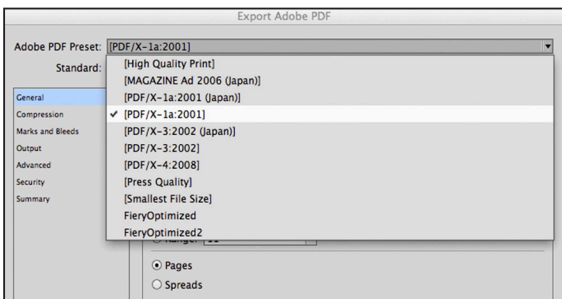# QUICK TIPS

Brief introduction to PDF/X specifications:

PDF/X specifications are intended to provide a framework for creating print-ready PDF files.

High Quality Print
Intended for in-house proofers and desktop printers. Any RGB, Lab or spot-color content will remain in its original color space and will not convert to CMYK.
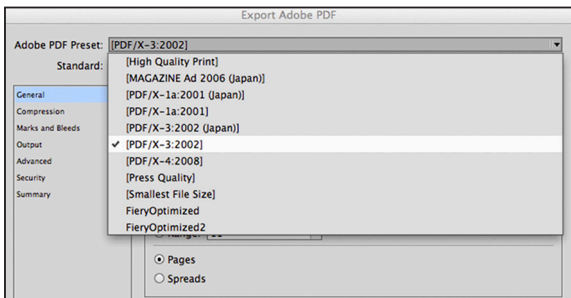

PDF/X-1a: 2001
PDF/X-1a files are intended for use in work-flows that do not employ color management or support live transparency.

All transparency is flattened; spot colors are maintained; any RGB content is converted to CMYK during PDF generation.

PDF/X-1a files should be used in instances when you don't know what the printer shop's capabilities are.
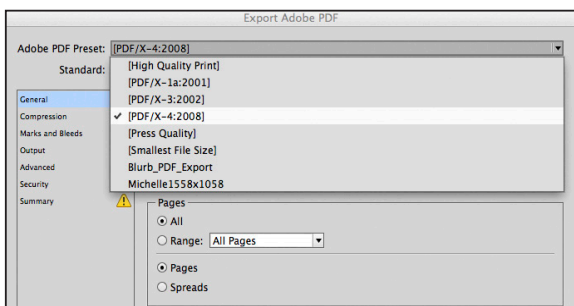
PDF/X-3: 2002

PDF/X-3 files build on specifications set by PDF/X-1a and can contain CMYK, RGB, Lab, grayscale, and spot-color content.

Intended for use in work-flows that require flattened transparency (Onyx RIP in the IC), but have support for color management.

Transparency is flattened; no color conversion takes place.

PDF/X-3 files can be used when submitting jobs in the IC.

PDF/X-4: 2008

PDF/X-4 files build on specifications set by PDF/X-1a and can contain CMYK, RGB, Lab, grayscale, and spot-color content.

Intended for use in work-flows that support live transparency (Onyx RIP in the IC), in addition to having support for color managed files.

It is strongly recommended that PDF/X-4 is used when submitting jobs in the Imaging Center.

For more information, check out our full Imaging Center Guide.