

## Scanning to PDF/A format

### Limitations of Colortrac Scan to PDF

All latest versions of Colortrac software produce portable document format (PDF) scan files in the regular PDF (1.3) or Adobe 4.x format. Colortrac PDF is not the same as the more specialist PDF/A1 (1.4) format. PDF/A documents conform to an ISO standard specification suitable for archive and are guaranteed to be retrievable without reliance on external factors. Although some of the requirements of PDF/A are not applicable to Colortrac scanned output (i.e. they relate to fonts) more and more organisations are insisting on wide-format scan data produced in the PDF/A certified format.

Files that have been produced as PDF/A contain a special trigger which starts any compatible viewer checking for compliance - Adobe Reader v9.0 upwards can be configured to do this. This information document has been saved in PDF/A format by Microsoft Office Word and should display in Acrobat with the 'viewing in PDF/A mode' message indicating it was saved in the PDF/A format.

### Structure of PDF/A

	PDF	Adobe	Description
<b>PDF</b>	1.3	4.x	Regular non-specialised PDF format
<b>PDF/A-1b</b>	1.4	5.x	Most common specialised variant. PDF/A-1b compliance with ISO 19005-1 and ensures the appearance of the file can be preserved over the long term (less rigorous but still complies)
<b>PDF/A-1a</b>	1.4	5.x	Less common specialised variant. PDF/A-1a compliance indicates complete compliance with ISO 19005-1 and ensures structural and semantic document properties are retained over the long term
<b>PDF/A-2</b>	1.7	-	Not in common usage (May 2013)
<b>PDF/A-3</b>	1.7	-	Not in common usage (May 2013)

### Checking for PDF/A compatibility

Conversion software usually incorporates its own checker. This site provides a free online PDF/A checker. Other providers are available. <http://www.pdf-tools.com/pdf/validate-pdf-a-online.aspx>

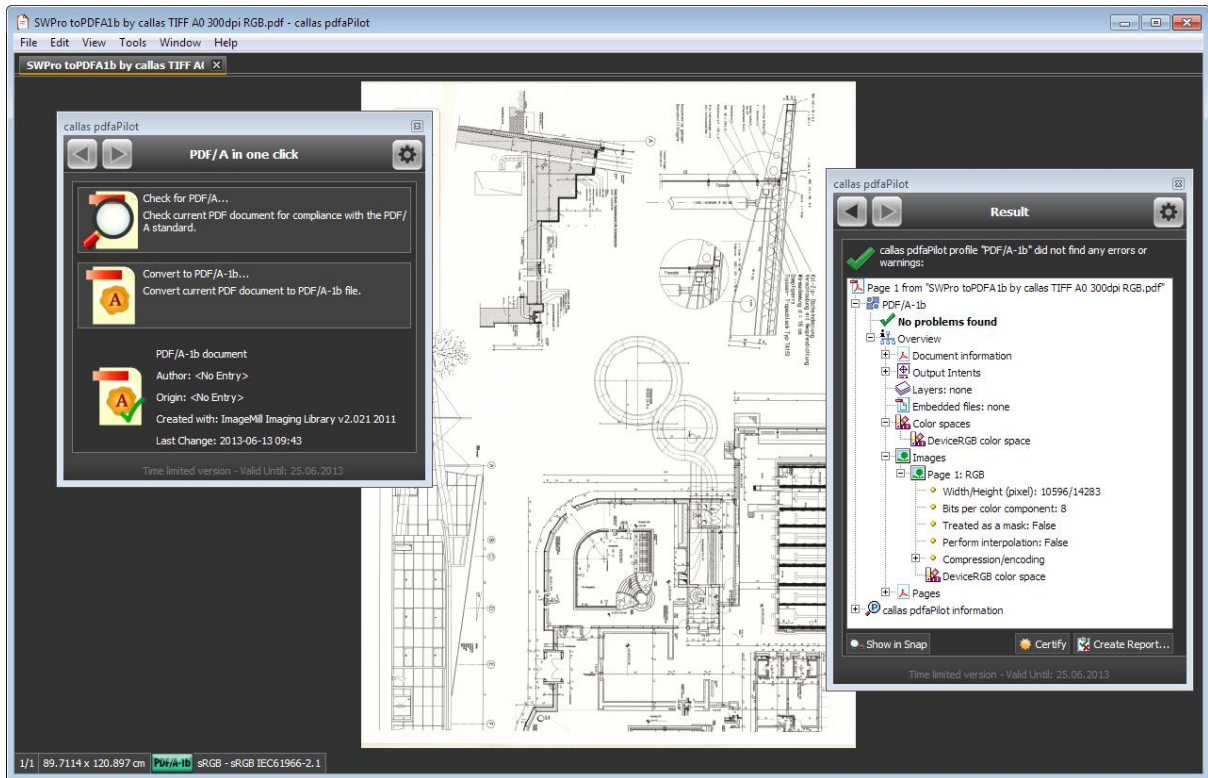
### Converting Colortrac PDF 1.3 documents to PDF/A

Several software tools are available to convert from PDF to PDF/A. The tools listed below have been tested by Colortrac but users should satisfy themselves independently that the PDF/A output provided by these providers meets the standards set by themselves or their customers.

<p>1. PDF Tools AG, Kasernenstrasse 1, 8184 Bachenbülach, Switzerland. 08.00–17.00 CET (UTC+1), Tel. +41 43 411 44 51, Fax +41 43 411 44 55, <a href="https://www.pdf-tools.com/pdf/products-pdf-pdfa.aspx">https://www.pdf-tools.com/pdf/products-pdf-pdfa.aspx</a></p>	<p><b>3-Heights™ 'PDF Producer' *</b> – works like a Windows printer driver and prints to file. Converts to PDF/A-1b, PDF/A-2u, PDF/A-3u.</p> <p><b>3-Heights™ 'Image to PDF Converter'</b> - works as a file batch post-processor. Converts to PDF/A-1a and PDF/A-1b, PDF/A-2 and PDF/A-3</p> <p>Output passes PDF/A 1-b validation checks by callas' checker and PDF Tools' own online checker.</p>	<p><b>Cost USD 135 per/desktop</b> (evaluation/demo version available online)</p> <p><b>Cost USD 285 per/desktop</b> (evaluation/demo version available online)</p>
<p>2. callas software GmbH, Schoenhauser Allee 6/7 D-10119 Berlin Tel +49.30.443 90 31-0 Fax +49.30.441 64 02 <a href="http://www.callassoftware.com/callas/doku.php/en:download">http://www.callassoftware.com/callas/doku.php/en:download</a></p>	<p><b>callas pdfaPilot 4 Desktop</b> – one shot PDF/A checker and convertor. Good quality product. Converts to PDF/A-1b standard.</p> <p>Output passes PDF/A 1-b validation checks by PDF Tools' online checker and callas' own checker.</p>	<p><b>Cost EUR 379,00 Desktop Windows version</b> (evaluation/demo version available online)</p> <p><b>callas pdfaPilot 4 server</b> to handle automatic and batch conversion jobs version is available. Contact the callas distributor in your country for pricing.</p>

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Screenshot of the Callas pdfaPilot4 product from callas software GmbH converting a Colortrac PDF to PDF/A-1b.



Screenshot of PDF-Tools 3-Heights' online validation showing PDF/A-1b compliance for a converted scan file.

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 PDF/A-1b     PDF/A-2u     PDF/A-3u  
 PDF/A-2b     PDF/A-3b

##### 3. Output

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#### KNOWN ISSUES IDENTIFIED WITH THESE PRODUCTS

PDF Tools' 3-Heights™ PDF Producer product may generate invalid PDF/A for scans larger than A1 300 dpi RGB which then fail its own validation checks. This is not the case with the 3-Heights™ Image to PDF Converter product which is specifically designed to work with very large files.

#### Colortrac PDF/A

Colortrac Ltd is committed to providing scan files in the PDF/A-1b format by the end of 2014.