

## **Frequently Asked Questions about removing the first fix from the ECP process when sound track application is no longer necessary**

**When will the new process information be available?** We currently expect that the revised H-24 Manual will be made available in the second half of 2006. Individual customers that need assistance for a conversion in advance can call CTS for assistance. This plan may be altered in response to distributor's requests for cyan dye tracks.

**Will there be a new name for the process?** The designation may change (for example ECP-2D to ECP-2E).

**Is the processing change required?** Laboratories will not be required to remove their first fixer when going to cyan dye tracks. Film can be processed just as it is today without the sound application. Retention of the first fixer stage may be advisable for labs that do not have adequate time in the second fixer. If a lab has a machine that is designated for a silver retention process that uses a black and white redeveloper, they would likely retain the first fixer to operate in the same manner that they do today except for the analog track. Labs that process film for restoration work may **occasionally be requested** to print and process high magenta sound tracks with application for specific projects.

**What if a lab wishes to continue using a first fix, but does not want to applicate sound?** If a first fix is still in use, the film may be threaded directly from the bleach wash into the second fixer.

**If a laboratory removes the first fix, can those tanks be used for anything else?** The fixer tanks can be used to provide additional wash time after the stop. If the lab wishes to put other solutions in them (stop or bleach) they should consult the H-24 Module 9, Table 9-2 which outlines the appropriate construction materials for stop and bleach solutions. In general, stainless steel tanks are not compatible with stop or bleach solutions.

**Will there be adequate fixing time with only a second fix?** Our H-24 formulations and conditions provide adequate fixing for 2383 when only the second fixer is used in the print process. For laboratories running custom processes, the time necessary in the second fix will depend on the formulation of the fixer and the extent of recycling or seasoning of the fixer solution. Current print products can be processed without the first fix in small machine tests without retained silver. Some labs have run without a first fixer for many years.

**What if a laboratory uses non-standard H-24 tails?** Each laboratory running non-standard specifications would be unique. A lab could run a test consisting of measuring retained silver on strips run through the current configuration, the new configuration, and the new configuration after the fixer is fully seasoned. Control strips could be evaluated through Kodak Motion Picture Services for Ag retention. If a lab plans to process KODAK VISION Premier Color Print Film, they may want to consider testing it as well.

**Is KI necessary in the fixer if there is only a single fix?** KI actually inhibits fixing; it is in the fix to improve bleaching. After removing the first fix, the KI should not be necessary for bleaching. KI was left in the fix with no adverse effects in the standard processes in Kodak tests however, any lab with shortened secondary solutions should consider removing the KI from the fix to improve fixing.

**Are there any expected effects on residual thiosulfate and dye stability?** There is no reduction of wash water planned after the second fixer solution; therefore, dye stability and residual thiosulfate levels in film should not be a concern. However, if a lab uses a higher than recommended concentration of thiosulfate in the second fixer formulation, it would be prudent to check the film for retained hypo.

**Will there be a new bleach formula?** Kodak will publish any formulation modifications pending the results of our internal testing. Our recommendations would only be applicable for H-24 standard processes. Non-standard conditions may require other modifications. For example, the level of PBA-1 in the persulfate bleach accelerator may need to be increased to help with bleaching at labs running non-standard tails.

**Are there any bleaching concerns?** Yes, if a lab processes more than one tank turnover of VISION Premier (2393) with persulfate bleach. The PBA-1 concentration in the accelerator may need to be increased. The persulfate bleach solution should be unaffected. There should be no retained silver in the film, but the level of PBA-1 will decrease if substantial amounts of VISION Premier are processed. There are no concerns with Ferricyanide and UL.

**What is the impact to the ENR process?** An ENR process that uses a B&W developer after the bleach would be significantly affected. Omitting the first fixer when processing in an ENR sequence would result in silver being developed in the non-image areas as well as in the image areas (including sound areas).

**If a lab needs to apply sound tracks where will the documentation still be available?** After publishing any formula modifications, the H-24 modules that include directions for sound application will continue to be available.

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