

These instructions apply to those using any graphics application programs (such as CorelDraw!, Freehand, etc.) on a Mac OS X or Windows operating system with Acrobat Standard or Professional version 6 or higher. You cannot use the free Acrobat Reader to create a PDF file. Before continuing, make sure your ad complies with Source Interlink's [Digital Guidelines](#).

Step 1 is for setup and only has to be done once.

- 1 Make sure to Acrobat Standard or Professional is installed on your computer according to the instructions that came with the software. You may want to check www.adobe.com/acrobat to make sure Acrobat is updated with the most recent release.

Once installed, launch Acrobat Distiller (a separate application that is installed with Acrobat Standard and Professional.) An Acrobat Distiller window will appear. In the Default Settings pop-up menu, choose **PDF/X-1a:2001** (Acrobat 7 and 8) or **PDFX1a** (Acrobat 6).

You may now quit Acrobat Distiller. Since the default setting is set to the PDF/X-1a, any PDF created using the Adobe PDF Printer will adhere to the PDF/X-1a standard until the default is changed.

Upon installation of Acrobat, a PDF printer was created called **Adobe PDF 8.0 (Acrobat 8)**, **Adobe PDF 7.0** (Acrobat 7) or **Adobe PDF** (Acrobat 6). Printing your ad to this printer will automatically generate a PDF/X-1a file from any application.

- 2 Make sure your active printer is set to **Adobe PDF**.
- 3 Go to the print dialog box of your graphics program and choose the appropriate setting based on Source Interlink's [Digital Guidelines](#) such as crop marks, crop mark offset, bleeds, etc.
- 4 When you are ready to create a PDF/X-1a file, click **Print**. By default, the new PDF file will be named the same name as your document with a ".pdf" extension added to the end. Also, it should appear on your Desktop (for Macs) or in your "My Documents" folder (Windows). If you cannot find the newly created PDF file, try using the Find feature to search for it.
- 5 When you are finished, make sure to compare the PDF version the ad with the original version of the ad.

