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TECHNICAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

Cross-processing EASTMAN EKTACHROME Color Reversal Films

Entertainment Imaging

Situation

EASTMAN EKTRACHROME films are color reversal films which require KODAK VNF-1 processing chemistry. The VNF-1 process consists of a ten-step sequence with both B&W and color development, as well as a critical coupler stabilizer bath. This process chemistry is necessary to achieve the correct color balance and image quality for the films.

A significant concern exists for the short and long term dye stability of EASTMAN EKTACHROME films when processed through a KODAK ECN-2 process. Normal VNF-1 processing requires stabilization of the magenta dye. The ECN-2 process provides only a surfactant in the final rinse. If stabilization is not provided, the product suffers magenta dye fade in a relatively short time. Long term dye stability information on EASTMAN EKTACHROME films processed in an ECN-2 process does not exist.

Kodak does not have specific processing data for the EASTMAN EKTACHROME films processed through an ECN-2 process. However, seasoning effects from EASTMAN EKTACHROME films could adversely affect the performance of the ECN-2 chemistry. This could result in potential speed loss (decreased developer activity) as well as curve shape distortion due to color balance differences. The amount of change depends on the quantity of color reversal film processed at any one time.

Based upon the information above and a lack of understanding regarding long term seasoning effects and dye stability, Kodak does not recommend using EASTMAN EKTACHROME films processed through ECN-2 chemistry. If this combination is pursued, create a master positive as soon as possible after processing the film, for archival purposes.