Ahearn & Soper Inc
ProVision Solutions

Canon
AUTHORIZED DEALER

WHITEPAPER · CANON LG-P800

The on-demand colour label.

Rethinking industrial labelling in Canada, for chemical, manufacturing and logistics teams.

FOR
Operations, EHS and packaging leaders

FROM
Ahearn & Soper Inc

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The label supply model was built for a world that is gone.

Canadian operations leaders in chemical, manufacturing and logistics are running into the same wall. Their label supply model was built for long product cycles and static SKUs, and that world is gone.

Tighter compliance regimes such as GHS and BS5609, faster product cycles and rising SKU counts are exposing the two paths most plants rely on, pre-printed inventory and outsourced colour, as more expensive than either looks on paper.

This paper sets out where that hidden cost comes from, what changed in the market, and an on-demand alternative: full colour, pigment-based labels printed in-house, when the line needs them. In Canada, that alternative is the Canon LG-P800, installed and supported by Ahearn & Soper, with 50 years of labelling expertise.

AT A GLANCE

- Pre-printed stock and outsourced colour both carry costs that never show up as a labelling line item.
- GHS updates, private label growth and traceability all add variable data that pre-printed stock cannot carry.
- A typical outsourced reprint takes 7 to 10 business days. On demand, the same change ships the same day.
- The Canon LG-P800 prints durable colour labels in-house, 2 to 8.5 in wide, at up to 1200 x 1200 dpi.

7 to 10

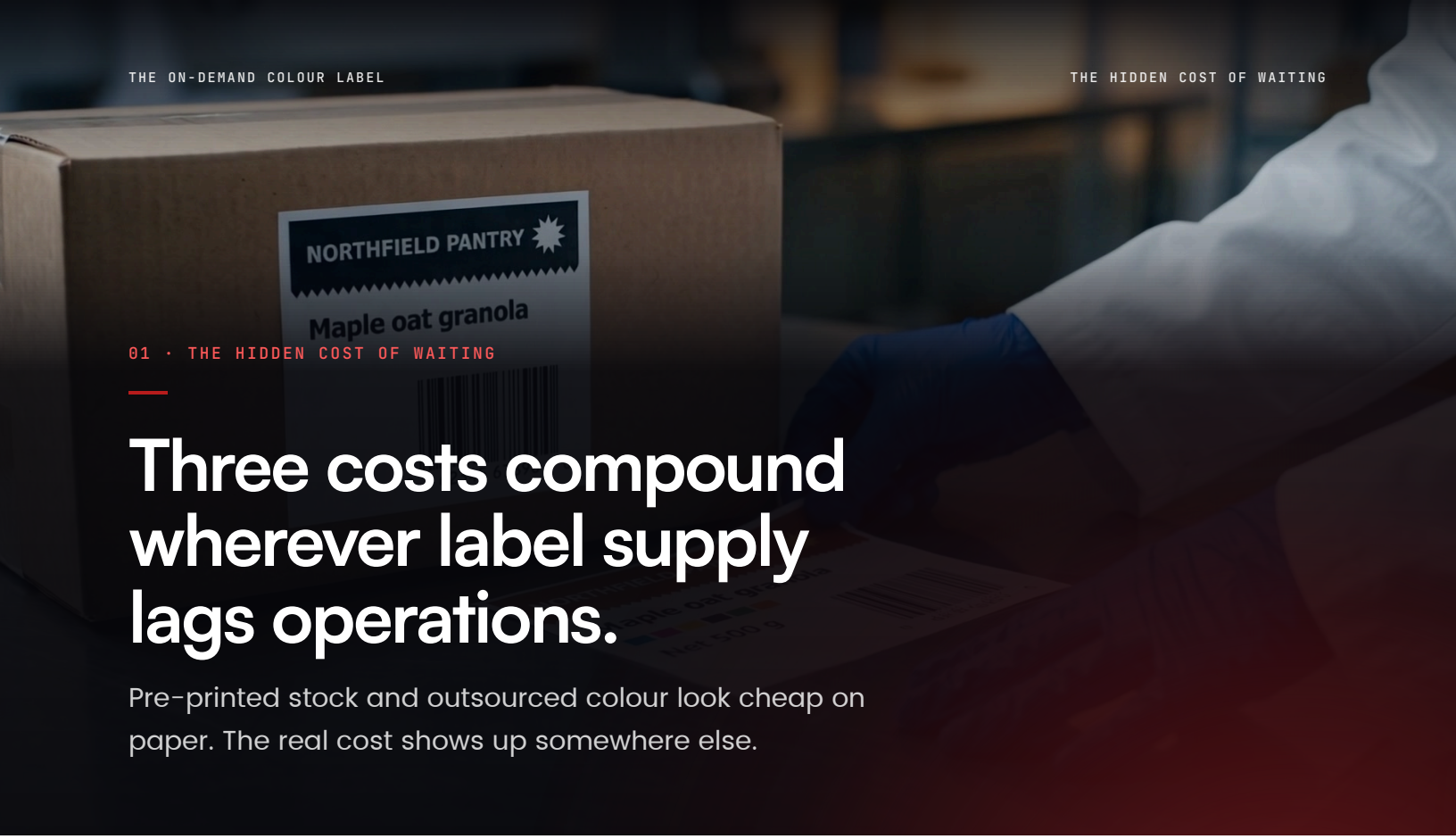
BUSINESS DAYS, TYPICAL OUTSOURCED REPRINT

1200 x 1200

DPI, MAXIMUM PRINT RESOLUTION

2 to 8.5 in

MEDIA WIDTH, EDGE TO EDGE



01 · THE HIDDEN COST OF WAITING

Three costs compound wherever label supply lags operations.

Pre-printed stock and outsourced colour look cheap on paper. The real cost shows up somewhere else.

01

Inventory obsolescence

Pre-printed label stock is a bet that packaging stays the same. Every SKU change, private label customer, flavour variant or new lot code that arrives before the stock runs out turns it into waste: boxes of labels that fit nothing on the line today.

02

Vendor lead time

Outsourced colour solves flexibility but brings back a different problem: a typical reprint cycle of 7 to 10 business days. For an EHS manager tracking GHS labels across dozens of SKUs in two languages, a ten day wait on a formula update is ten days the plant cannot ship compliant product.

03

Compliance exposure

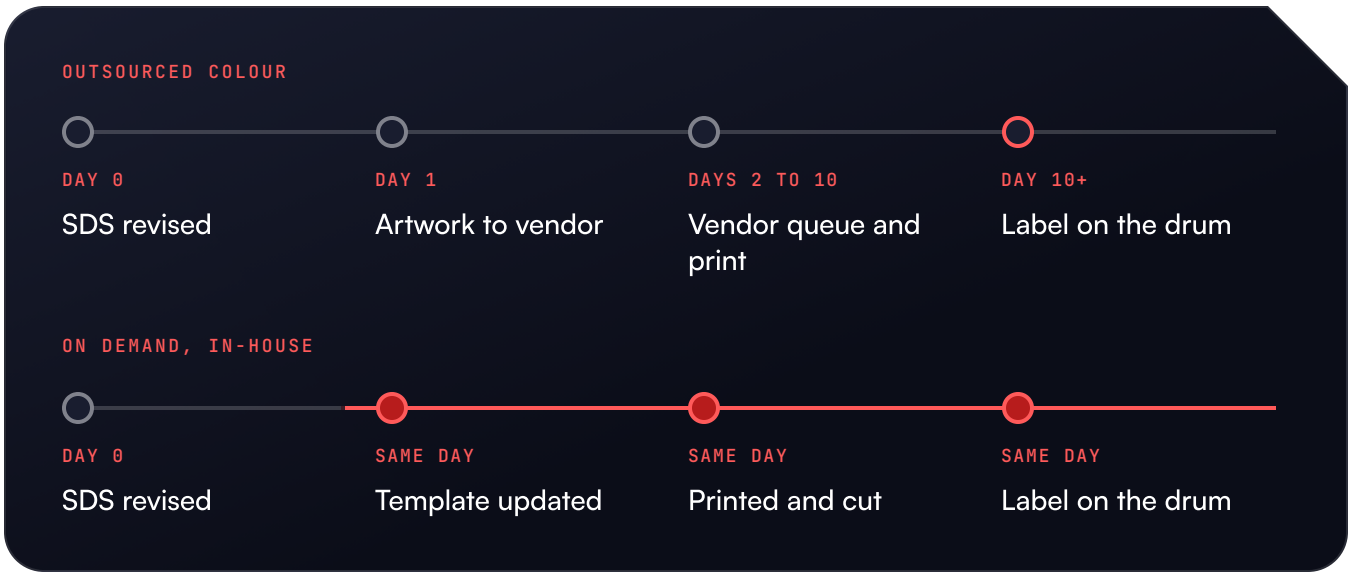
The gap between “the SDS team finalised the update” and “the correct label is on the drum” is where risk lives. A label vendor’s queue does not know a formula changed on Tuesday. The plant does. Every day a drum ships with the previous label is a day of documented exposure.

> None of these costs appears as a line item called labelling. They appear as write-offs, expedited freight, missed ship dates and audit findings, which is why the trade-off has lasted as long as it has.

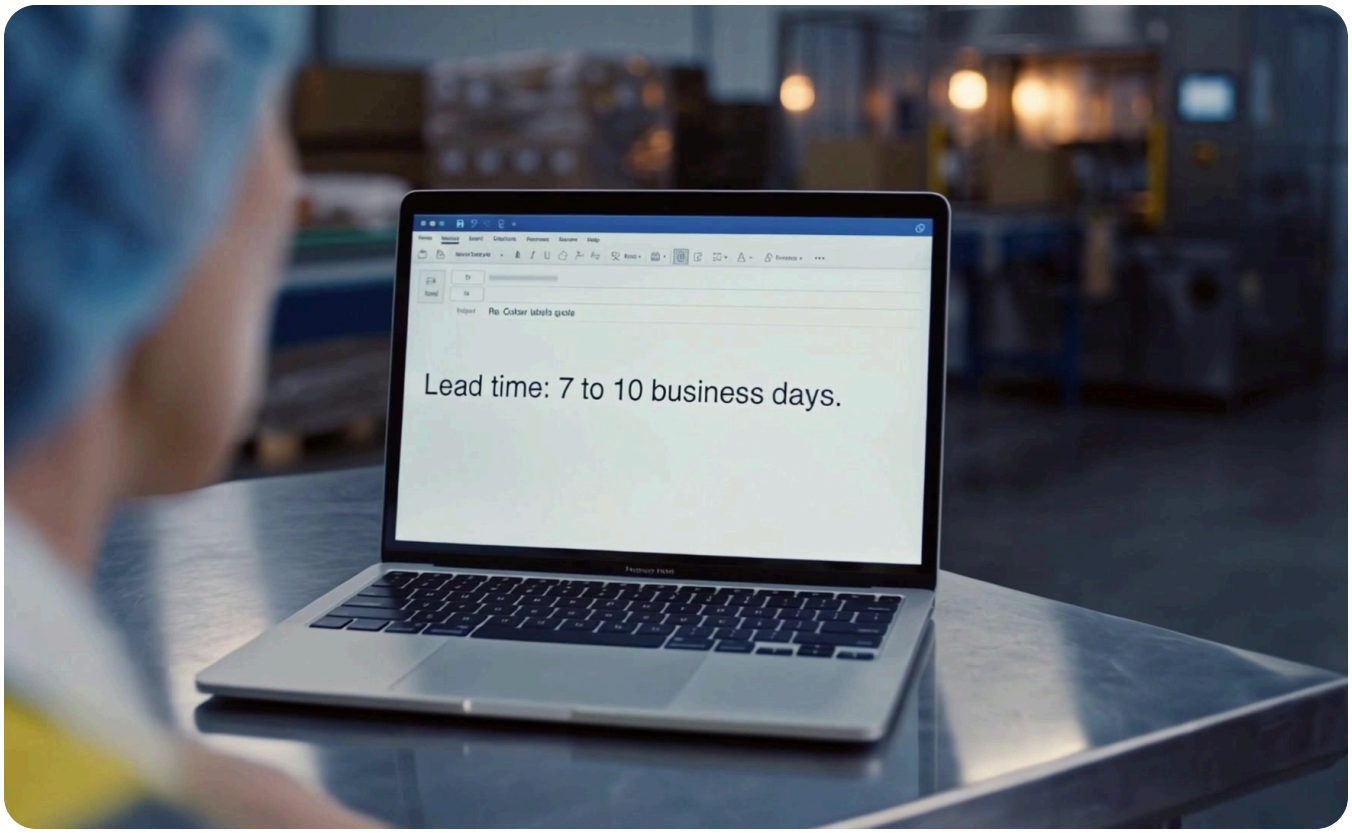
01 · THE HIDDEN COST OF WAITING

One formula change, two timelines

Figure 1. One formula change: a 7 to 10 business day queue, or a same day fix.



SOURCE: AHEARN & SOPER. ILLUSTRATIVE TIMING BASED ON A TYPICAL OUTSOURCED REPRINT CYCLE.



02 · WHY NOW

Three forces are converging on Canadian operations at once.

Compliance, product cycles and traceability are all moving in the same direction.

01

Compliance regimes are tightening

GHS harmonisation updates and BS5609 requirements for marine transport raise the durability and accuracy bar on chemical labels, and leave less room to ship with an outdated label “for now.”

02

Product cycles are compressing

Private label growth, ecommerce SKU growth and shorter promotional windows mean the packaging that was current last quarter often is not current this quarter.

03

Supply chains reward visibility

Traceability, QR-linked lot data and customer specific labels are becoming standard asks. Each one is variable data that pre-printed stock cannot carry.

Together, these forces raise the cost of the old trade-off a little more every quarter it persists.

03 · THE ON-DEMAND SOLUTION

Collapse the trade-off instead of choosing a side of it.

One printer on your floor replaces the queue, the write-offs and the wait.

An 8 inch, full colour, pigment-based label printer gives you durable colour labels when and where you need them, without inventory risk or vendor lead time.

01 · LOAD

Roll or fanfold media, 2 to 8.5 in wide, matte or gloss.

02 · PRINT

Up to 1200 x 1200 dpi, pigment inks, edge to edge.

03 · CUT

The auto cutter separates labels as they print.

04 · REPRINT

Stored jobs from the 4.3 in touch panel, no PC needed.

03 · THE ON-DEMAND SOLUTION

Built for the floor, sized for the bench.

1200 x 1200
DPI, UP TO

500 GB
HDD FOR STORED JOBS

4.3 in
TOUCH PANEL

SUB-INK TANK SYSTEM

Swap ink without stopping the line.

The Sub-Ink Tank System lets you replace a tank while the printer keeps running, and uses nearly all the ink in each tank.

RESOLUTION	Up to 1200 x 1200 dpi	MEDIA WIDTH	2 to 8.5 in, edge to edge
MEDIA	Roll or fanfold; matte, gloss, film, synthetic	STORAGE	500 GB HDD for stored jobs
INTERFACE	USB 2.0, Ethernet	RATED LIFE	2.3 million sheets or 5 years

RESULTS VARY BY MEDIA. SPECIFICATIONS FROM CANON.

04 · THREE OPERATIONS, ONE PRINTER

The same printer, three very different floors.

Chemical, manufacturing and logistics teams use the same printer for very different jobs.

CHEMICAL

Drum, tote and IBC labels

GHS-style labels print on synthetic stock built for chemicals, UV and sea transport, with BS5609-certified media available from Ahearn & Soper. A formula or language change goes from a revised SDS to a label on the drum the same day, not after a 7 to 10 business day queue.

Certification depends on the media and ink combination. Confirm the approved media for your application with Ahearn & Soper.

MANUFACTURING

High mix, short run product labels

Variable data, barcodes and QR-linked traceability print on demand as SKUs, private label customers and lot codes change. Pre-printed stock that goes obsolete every quarter stops being a planning problem.

LOGISTICS

Shipping and routing labels

Full bleed labels, colour coded by zone, print at the pace of a pick, pack and ship operation. A low ink tank mid-shift does not stop the line: it is swapped while the job keeps printing.

05 · COMPARING THE THREE MODELS

Pre-printed, outsourced or on demand.

Figure 2. Only on demand removes both the lead time and the write-offs.

	PRE-PRINTED INVENTORY	OUTSOURCED COLOUR	ON DEMAND (LG-P800)
Lead time on a change	None once printed, but a new SKU means a new order	7 to 10 business days, typical	**Same day**
Inventory risk	High: obsolete stock on every SKU change	None	**None**
Cost pattern	Low per label, high in write-offs	High per label	**Moderate, no write-offs**
Compliance currency	Only as current as the last print run	Only as current as the last reprint	**Always current**
Variable data (QR, lot, language)	Not supported	Limited, added cost and time	**Native**
Line stop for a consumable change	Not applicable	Not applicable	**None: tanks swap mid-run**

SOURCE: AHEARN & SOPER EVALUATION PLANNING. DIRECTIONAL, NOT A FACILITY COST MODEL.

A qualitative, directional comparison for evaluation planning, not a facility specific cost model. Ahearn & Soper can build one from your SKU count, label volume and current vendor pricing.

06 · WHY AHEARN & SOPER

Canon builds the printer. We make it work in a Canadian operation.

HERITAGE

50

years of labelling expertise

Labels, printers and the software that drives them, installed and serviced across Canada.

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01	PARTNER **Authorised Canon Canada partner**	LG-P800 sales, service and supplies, coast to coast.
02	MEDIA **Approved label media**	Including BS5609-certified stock for chemical labels.
03	SOFTWARE **Your label design stack**	BarTender, NiceLabel Pro and LabelView, set up and supported.
04	SERVICE **Installed, trained, supported**	Cross-Canada installation, operator training and Peace of Mind service programmes.

07 · GETTING STARTED

See it print your own labels.

01

Book a demo

At an Ahearn & Soper location. Pick a time that suits your team.

02

Bring your files

Your label artwork, data and stock, so the test is real.

03

Get your numbers

A cost model from your SKU count, label volume and vendor pricing.

THE ON-DEMAND COLOUR LABEL

Book a demo →

Get a quote

ahearn.com/canon/colour-on-demand

SCAN TO BOOK A DEMO

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QUESTIONS

Talk to a specialist before your next SKU.

Ahearn & Soper installs, trains and services the Canon LG-P800 across Canada. Call 800-263-4258 or book a demo online.

Book a demo →

800-263-4258

ahearn.com/canon/colour-on-demand

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