HelixNet

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

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SOP-001: Postcard Print Workflow

HelixNet Standard Operating Procedure | ISO 9001 Aligned

Purpose

Convert HTML postcard designs to print-ready PDFs. Every time. Same quality. No surprises.

Tools

Tool	Use	Status
wkhtmltopdf	HTML → PDF conversion	**PRIMARY**
weasyprint	DO NOT USE	DEPRECATED
Browser Print	Fallback only	BACKUP

File Locations

```
SOURCE (edit here):
/home/angel/repos/helixnet/docs/business/postcards/
├── donny/                  # Donny Kenel designs
├── puntatipa/              # PuntaTipa hotel designs
├── ufa-menu-brochure.html
├── ufa-wall-display.html
└── ufa-order-form.html

OUTPUT (grab for print):
/home/angel/repos/helixnet/UFA_r2p/
├── Rm°205/                 # Hotel pitch packages
└── *.pdf                   # All print-ready files
```

Standard Sizes

Product	Size	Orientation
Postcard Standard	6in × 4in (152mm × 102mm)	Landscape
Postcard BOXFIT	140mm × 95mm	Landscape
Postcard A4 Tent	A4 (297mm × 210mm)	Landscape
Menu/Brochure	A4 (210mm × 297mm)	Portrait
Wall Display	A4 (210mm × 297mm)	Portrait
Labels Sheet	A4 (210mm × 297mm)	Portrait

Procedure

Step 1: Verify HTML

```
# Open in browser first
firefox /path/to/postcard.html
```

- Check layout looks correct
- Check no overflow/collision
- Check text readable

Step 2: Generate PDF

```
# A4 Portrait (menu, wall display, labels)
wkhtmltopdf --page-size A4 \
  --margin-top 0 --margin-bottom 0 \
  --margin-left 0 --margin-right 0 \
  input.html output.pdf

# A4 Landscape (tent cards)
wkhtmltopdf --page-size A4 --orientation Landscape \
  --margin-top 0 --margin-bottom 0 \
  --margin-left 0 --margin-right 0 \
  input.html output.pdf

# Custom size (postcards)
wkhtmltopdf --page-width 152mm --page-height 102mm \
  --margin-top 0 --margin-bottom 0 \
  --margin-left 0 --margin-right 0 \
  input.html output.pdf
```

Step 3: VERIFY (Critical)

```
# Check page count
pdfinfo output.pdf | grep Pages

# Open and visually inspect
evince output.pdf
```

Verification Checklist:

- ☐ Correct number of pages (1-pager = 1 page, not 2)
- ☐ No blank pages
- ☐ No content overflow
- ☐ No empty gaps in middle
- ☐ Text readable
- ☐ Images display correctly

Step 4: Move to Output

```
cp output.pdf /home/angel/repos/helixnet/UFA_r2p/
```

What "1-Pager" Means

1. **Exactly 1 page** when printed
2. **Content fills the page** - no huge empty gaps
3. **No overflow** - nothing spills to page 2
4. **Print-ready** - open, print, done

> **If any of these fail, it is NOT fixed. Go back to Step 1.**

Common Fixes

Problem	Cause	Fix
2 pages instead of 1	Content too big	Reduce padding/margins/font
Blank second page	Extra whitespace	Check body/page height in CSS
Empty gaps	Flexbox issues	Use table-based layout
Text collision	Absolute positioning	Use normal document flow
Images missing	Wrong path	Use absolute paths or embed base64

CSS That Works

```
/* Page setup */
@page {
    size: A4 portrait;
    margin: 0;
}

/* Use tables, not flexbox */
table { width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; }

/* Fixed heights that add up to page height */
.header { height: 50mm; }
.content { height: 200mm; }
.footer { height: 47mm; }
/* Total: 297mm = A4 height */
```

CSS That Breaks

```
/* AVOID THESE */
display: flex;          /* Unreliable in PDF */
position: absolute;     /* Causes collisions */
float: left/right;      /* Unpredictable */
background: linear-gradient(); /* May not render */
```

Never

- Never say "fixed" without opening the PDF
- Never say "1 page" without checking page count
- Never blame the tool - own the HTML
- Never skip verification

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