

Thermal Label Printer Buying Checklist

Complete this worksheet before requesting quotes or testing a printer. Validate the exact printer, label, ribbon and software combination before a fleet purchase.

1. Labels and media

☐	Width and length Include liner width, minimum size and maximum size.	
☐	Sensing Gap, notch, black mark, continuous or linerless.	
☐	Roll format Core, roll diameter, winding, fan-fold or tag stock.	
☐	Handling Tear, peel, cut, rewind or print-and-apply.	

2. Print and durability

☐	Print method Direct thermal or thermal transfer, with reason.	
☐	Resolution 203, 300 or 600 dpi based on physical design.	
☐	Exposure Heat, UV, water, abrasion and named chemicals.	
☐	Useful life Required readability period and storage conditions.	

3. Workload and integration

☐	Peak demand Labels per 15 minutes, hour, shift and day.	
☐	Connections USB, Ethernet, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth or serial.	
☐	Software OS, label app, WMS/ERP, carrier and printer language.	
☐	Operations Users, stations, spare unit and downtime tolerance.	

4. Cost and acceptance

☐	Three-year cost Printer, labels, ribbon, labor, waste and wear parts.	
☐	Supply availability Approved items, lead times and local stock.	
☐	Production test Real labels at peak speed on actual substrates.	
☐	Barcode verification Check after application and environmental exposure.	

Decision	
Selected printer and supplies	
Test owner and approval date	

Independent guidance from Thermal Label Guide. Product specifications and compatibility should be verified with the manufacturer. thermallabelguide.com