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How to pass Quality Control

This guide offers an overview of our most common failure reasons. We recommend you check your images at 100% against this guide before submitting to make sure they pass QC.
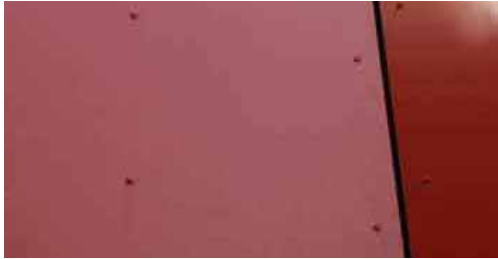
If you have any questions about QC see our **FAQs**, contributor **help pages** or email **contributors@alamy.com**.

Failed image reasons

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We fail images submitted to us for a number of reasons; below we have listed some of the most common QC failure reasons and included some examples so you can spot the issues with your images. Here are some example failure reasons and images.

Name	Description	Image example	Image example (100%)
Blemishes – Dust, scratches or sensor dust	Small dark circles/marks, noticeable in areas of flat colour such as skies		
Camera shake	Blurred or soft image giving the impression that the camera moved when the photo was taken		
Chromatic aberration or 'coloured fringing'	Magenta/cyan fringing, particularly noticeable on wide angle shots		

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Name	Description	Image example	Image example (100%)
Colour cast	This is caused by having an incorrect white balance		
Compression *artifacts*	Blocky or patchy appearance in areas of flat colour, caused by compressing your files too much		
Excessive sharpening	Double edges, or artifacts. Don't sharpen, leave it to the customer		
Interpolation artifacts	Artifacts & degradation of detail that can look noisy and soft		

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Name	Description	Image example	Image example (100%)
Noise	Excessive noise, always shoot at as low ISO level as possible		
Noticeable retouching	Retouching is obvious in the image when viewed at 100%		
Out of focus	No point of focus, or out of focus when we feel it's not artistically intended to be		
Over manipulated	Posterised, "blocky" or distorted/unrealistic colours		

Name	Description	Image example	Image example (100%)
Poor exposure	Flat or washed out. Black point should be at 0, white at 255 (or within 5% of)		
Soft due to size	Caused by over increasing the size of an image		
Soft or lacking definition	Marked difference in definition between low-res comp & when viewed at 100%		
Digital camera not suitable for Alamy	We only accept images from DSLRs or equivalent. We don't accept images from mobile phones		
Excessive similars	Series of similar images with almost identical compositions or only slight differences		

Failed image reasons (continued)

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Name	Description	Image example	Image example (100%)
Film rebate or border	We don't want borders		
Number of images	For your first 'test' submission we only need 3 images		
Orientation	Make sure your image is the right way up		
Scanning artifacts	Stripes or banding (more noticeable in shadow areas), Newton's rings or interference patterns		
Size	Uncompressed (opened) file size needs to be 17MB or more		
Unsuitable material	Images which contain (but not limited to) glamour, pornography & infringement of rights of any third party		
Watermark	No need to add your own; we'll add an Alamy watermark once the image goes on sale		
No metadata	For your first 'test' submission we need all images to contain valid camera data		

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