



# Tech Info Library

## TIFF: Caution - Not All TIFF Files are the Same

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TOPIC -----

A user tried to copy a file created with MacView/AGFA Scanner for porting to Microsoft Windows, and it didn't work. Are there differences between the TIFF used on the Macintosh and the one used by Microsoft?

DISCUSSION -----

The ability of applications to read TIFF files, created by another application, is based on the conformance of both applications to the TIFF specification, not the CPU type or operating system. Below is a copy of the TIFF Conformance Specification.

Conformance -----

"Many of the application programs that read the contents of TIFF image files will not support all of the features described in this document. In some cases, little more than the default options will be supported. It is up to each organization to determine the costs and benefits associated with different levels of conformity. Therefore, claims of conformity to this specification should be interpreted with a certain amount of caution.

"It follows that the usage of this specification does not preclude the need for coordination between image file writers and image file readers. It is up to the application designer that initially writes a file in this format to verify that the desired file options are supported by the applications that will read the file."

To resolve this problem, contact the vendors of both products to confirm the conformance of the applications to the TIFF specification  
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