

# PublishMe

## Cover specifications

Common cover specs, sizes and measurements  
to ensure a great-looking publication





# Introduction

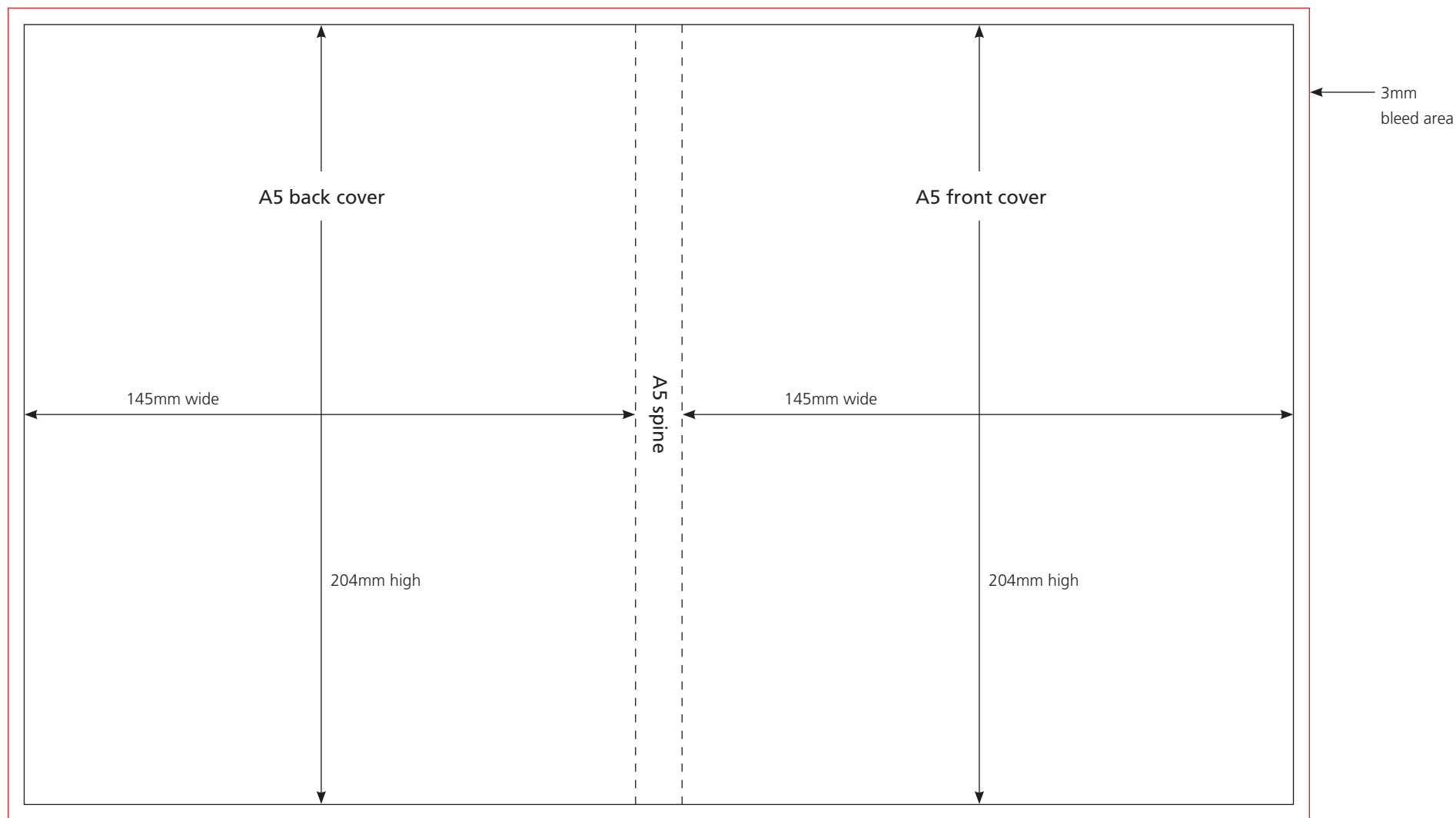
Books can be produced in any size desired. However, PublishMe has two book sizes that are most economical, A5 trimmed & A4 trimmed. The most common size used is A5 trimmed as, depending on spine width, this allows two covers to be printed on one SRA3 sheet so the cost is cheaper in the long run and A5 trimmed is a comfortable size book to hold and read. Cover design cannot be done easily without the aid of proper design programs. For example it isn't possible to create a well-designed cover spread in Microsoft Word. To ensure your peace of mind we offer a complete cover design service!

- A cover spread consists of three main parts, the front cover, the back cover and the spine. Bleed area of the cover is also an important factor to remember as any colour or graphic images you want to print right to the outer trimmed edges of the cover will need to extend into the 3mm bleed area which is trimmed off during the production process. This ensures the colour or graphics you want to run right up to the trimmed edge does so without any white space showing along the trimmed edge. The bleed area and its measurements are indicated on the following spec sheets by the red line around the edge of the page and is also labelled as bleed area.
- The specs on the following pages show the measurements of cover spreads as well as indicating the spine area and bleed areas. The width of the spine depends on how many pages are in your book and also the 'gsm' (grams per square metre) weight of the paper that your book pages will be printed on. For example a book printed on standard 80gsm paper will be thinner than the same book printed on 100gsm paper and that will affect the spine width in your cover layout. Let us know how many pages make up your book, what 'gsm' paper weight you want your pages printed on, if it is printed double sided or single sided and we'll give you the correct spine width for layout purposes.

- If you require a barcode first you must obtain an ISBN number as the barcode is made using the ISBN number. Acceptable dimensions for 13-digit barcode printing: The functionally acceptable size of a 13-digit barcode is 37.3mm wide x 25.9mm high. The minimum recommended size is 80% of that, ie: 30mm wide, and the maximum is 200%, ie: 74.6mm wide. Width is more important than height, as the width influences the distance between the bars and how well the scanner can distinguish between them. The barcode image must be sharp so it can be read by a barcode scanner. A high resolution TIF file (at least 300dpi) or an EPS file is best. If PublishMe is designing your book cover and you need a barcode then discuss this with your client manager and we'll produce a barcode for you. If you are designing the cover yourself or someone else is designing your cover then remember to leave space on the lower back cover for your barcode. You must have a barcode if you intend to sell your book commercially.
- PublishMe will add crop marks and spine fold indicator marks to your cover for production purposes. If you design your cover yourself please provide the cover PDF file without crop marks or spine fold indicator marks, we will add those when we set up the cover for printing. Please remember to include the 3mm bleed area in the PDF file as well.
- Although most people think only of the front cover of a book don't forget that the spine and back cover are also part of the graphic look and feel of your cover – so don't neglect them. Look at the two examples on the glossary page at the end of this document to see how an overall graphic effect can enhance your cover spread.



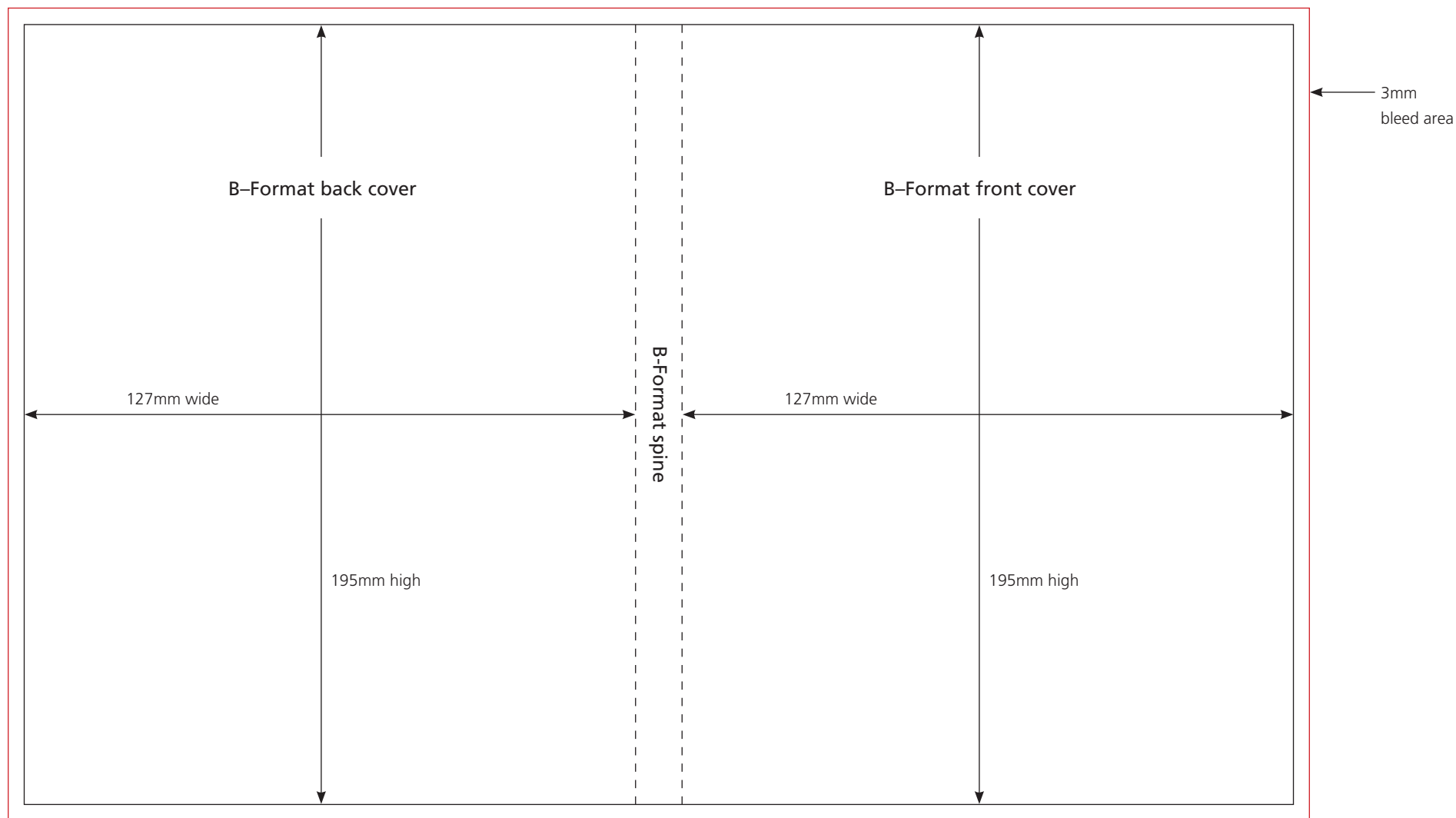
# A5 Trimmed cover size 145 x 204mm



- The red line around the outer edge of the cover diagram indicates the bleed area. This bleed area must be included and should extend 3mm on all four sides of the cover spread. This bleed area is trimmed off your book once the inside pages have been bound to the cover, thus giving the A5 trimmed size of 145 x 204mm. Any colour or graphic images you want to extend right up to the trimmed edge of your cover must extend into this 3mm bleed area.
- The spine width of your cover will depend on the number of pages in your book and the gsm weight of the paper the pages will be printed on.



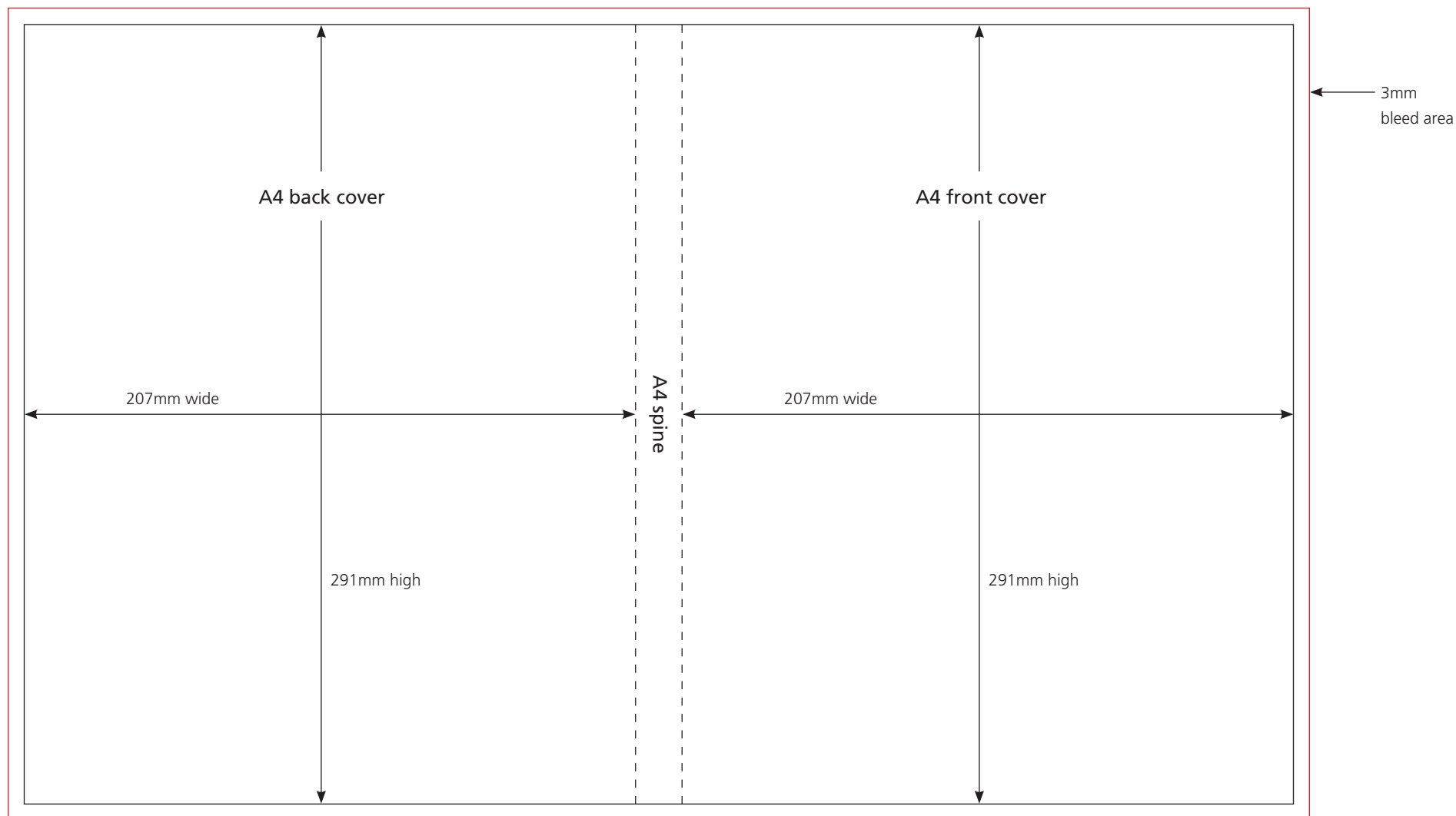
# B-Format Trimmed cover size 127 x 195mm



- The red line around the outer edge of the cover diagram indicates the bleed area. This bleed area must be included and should extend 3mm on all four sides of the cover spread. This bleed area is trimmed off your book once the inside pages have been bound to the cover, thus giving the B-Format trimmed size of 127 x 195mm. Any colour or graphic images you want to extend right up to the trimmed edge of your cover must extend into this 3mm bleed area.
- The spine width of your cover will depend on the number of pages in your book and the gsm weight of the paper the pages will be printed on.



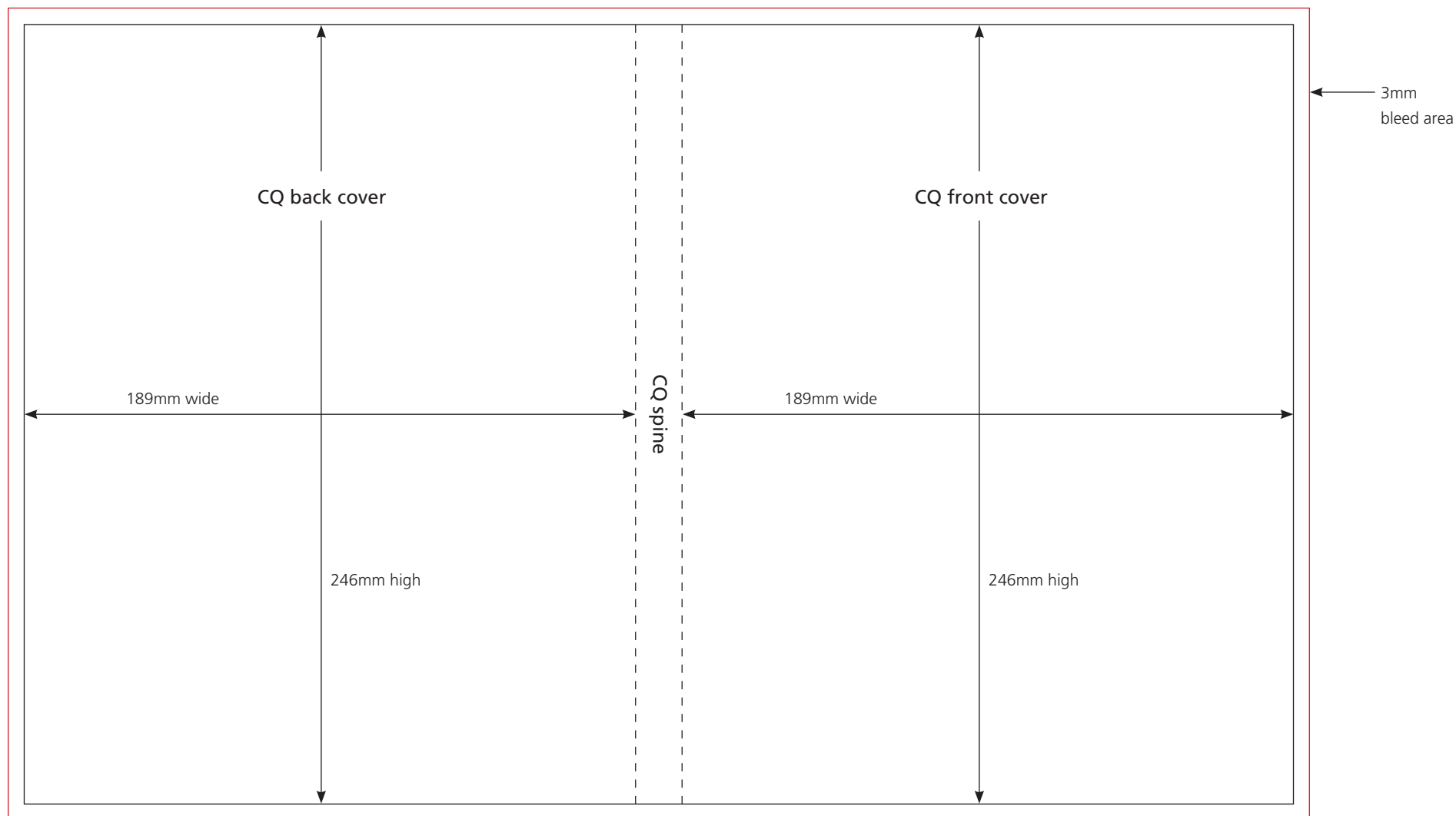
## A4 Trimmed cover size 207 x 291mm



- The red line around the outer edge of the cover diagram indicates the bleed area. This bleed area must be included and should extend 3mm on all four sides of the cover spread. This bleed area is trimmed off your book once the inside pages have been bound to the cover, thus giving the A4 trimmed size of 207 x 291mm. Any colour or graphic images you want to extend right up to the trimmed edge of your cover must extend into this 3mm bleed area.
- The spine width of your cover will depend on the number of pages in your book and the gsm weight of the paper the pages will be printed on.

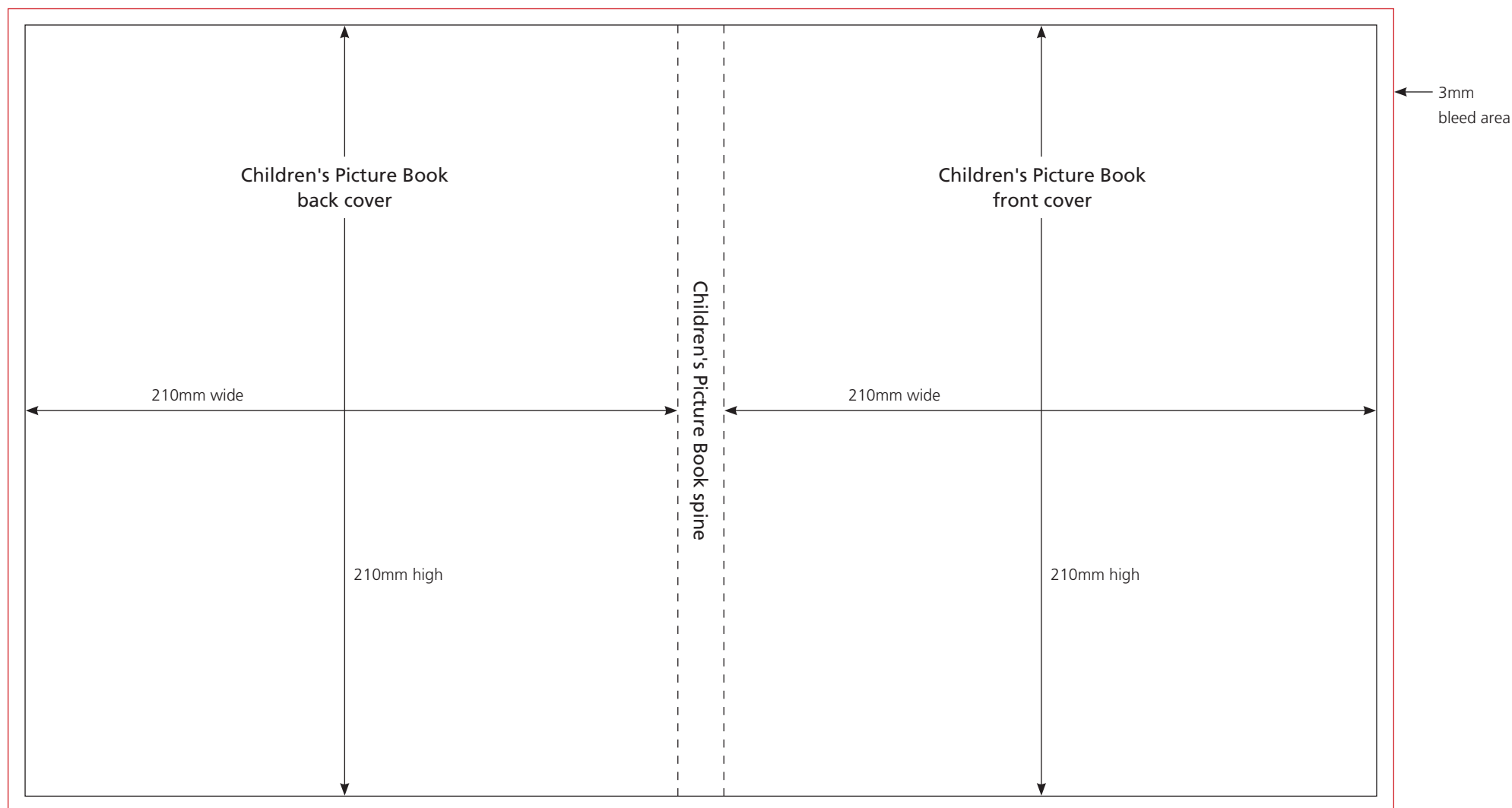


# Crown Quarto Trimmed cover size 189 x 246mm



- The red line around the outer edge of the cover diagram indicates the bleed area. This bleed area must be included and should extend 3mm on all four sides of the cover spread. This bleed area is trimmed off your book once the inside pages have been bound to the cover, thus giving the CQ trimmed size of 189 x 246mm. Any colour or graphic images you want to extend right up to the trimmed edge of your cover must extend into this 3mm bleed area.
- The spine width of your cover will depend on the number of pages in your book and the gsm weight of the paper the pages will be printed on.





- The red line around the outer edge of the cover diagram indicates the bleed area. This bleed area must be included and should extend 3mm on all four sides of the cover spread. This bleed area is trimmed off your book once the inside pages have been bound to the cover thus, giving the CPB trimmed size of 210 x 210mm. Any colour or graphic images you want to extend right up to the trimmed edge of your cover must extend into this 3mm bleed area.
- The spine width of your cover will depend on the number of pages in your book and the gsm weight of the paper the pages will be printed on.







# Glossary

**A5 Trimmed:** 'True A5' is exactly half A4. 'A5 trimmed' refers to reduced size after top, bottom and front edge is trimmed after binding giving a book size of 145 x 204mm.

**A4 Trimmed:** 'True A4' is exactly 210 x 297. 'A4 trimmed' refers to reduced size after top, bottom and front edge is trimmed after binding, giving a book size of 207 x 291mm.

**Bleed:** Area that extends beyond the trimmed edge on a page or cover. 'Bleed' is the area outside of your finished book size. Allowing that bleed is important if the graphic or colour on the page needs to go right to the edge, ie with no white border.

**Font:** A set of characters in a typeface eg: Arial or Times New Roman.

**gsm:** The thickness of a sheet of paper is indicated by the weight of the paper, measured in grams per square metre (gsm).

80gsm paper – this is the most common type of paper used in printing of all types – it is your standard photocopier paper.

100gsm – a heavier, though not always thicker, weight of paper. This paper may be selected to reduce the 'show through' from a double-sided page, especially when colour photos are used. It gives a very professional look but it is a little more expensive. Children's picture books would be done on 100 gsm paper.

150, 250 and 300gsm card – the weight you use will depend on the purpose of your publication. For book covers the standard weight is 300gsm card.

The paper stock and page count of your book determines the spine width of your cover.

**ISBN:** International Standard Book Number. A 13-digit number that is a worldwide identification code to identify your book or other published materials. An ISBN provides a book with a 'fingerprint' that allows publishers, book suppliers and libraries to easily locate and order it, if necessary. An ISBN is also incorporated in a book's barcode.

**Barcode:** A means of identifying books. It is code printed on the back cover of a book and able to be read by electronic scanners and linked to the National Library database of ISBNs.

**Laminate:** While a book cover is generally sturdy, if laminated it will be more durable and smart.

A gloss laminate will enhance the colours on the cover but the smooth, satin finish of a matt laminate makes that a popular option as well.

