RFID from A to Z: Everything You Need to Know

**RFID - Advanced Training** 

October 11-14, 2021



## Agenda

- Key Markets & Trends
- Effects of Material and Direction
- Encoding & Chip Capabilities
- RFID Delivery Formats
- Dry Inlay Conversion
- Wet Inlay Conversion
- Converting Tips
- RFID Applications





## **Frank Smits**

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## Key Markets & Trends

#### Food Key Trends



Food safety



Consumer experience



Traceability



Labor efficiency



Sustainability / food waste



Legislation

#### Logistics & Transportation Key Trends



Shipment verification / cross dock operation



Omnichannel / inventory accuracy



Pallet level to item management



Distribution efficiency (inbound, pick / pack, outbound, returns)



Supply chain automation, labour efficiency & closing the IoT GAP

## Key Markets & Trends

#### Pharmaceutical & Healthcare Key Trends



Inventory management



Patient safety & connected consumer



Brand protection

& authentication

Labor & operational efficiency

#### Automotive Key Trends



Part tracking, traceability & process automation



Customer safety



Authentication & anti-counterfeiting



Brand protection



Labor & operations efficiency

# Effects of Material and Direction



## **Item Material and Directionality for UHF**



Metal: Conductive

- Tag applied to metal cannot respond unless an 'on-metal' tag is used
- Tag near metal detunes / shift performance
- Metal blocks / shields RFID signals from passing through



Liquid, Glass, Rubber: High Dielectrics

- High dielectric effect detunes tag / shifts performance
- Insulator effect: lossy. Greatly reduces signal passing through



#### Tag Orientation Performance

- Linear Tags most tags have strong response from the long edge
- Dual Directional Tags (or Omni Directional Tags) - same performance from each edge, useful for RTLS
- Direction Insensitive Tags short edge designed to have better than normal response

## **Directionality for UHF: Tag Orientation Performance**



### Linear tags

- Most tags have a strong response from the long edge
- Readers facing the long edge will read from further away, than when they face the short edge



## Dual directional tags

- Dual Directional tags have strong response from the long edge
- Readers can read the tag from a similar distance from every side of the tag

# Encoding & Chip Capabilities





## What's Encoded in a Retail Tag?

**SGTIN** = **GTIN** ("Global Trade Item" UPC or EAN 13)

+ Unique Lot Number + Serial Number

		Batch/Lot 1022 Serial 5 Packed Oct 23, 20	
Т 4	otal Price 1.43		<b>\$</b> L
2 82121 0 U 1 N	Jniti Cafe 70 Monarc Aiamisburg	h Lane , OH 45342	Processed USA
urn:epc:tag:sgfin-96:0.0002802.082121.10220010			ow 40F
	2 82121 0 1 121.10220010 iti Foods LLF11	Total Price 4.43 2 82121 0 Uniti Cafe 170 Monarc Miamisburg	Total Price 4.43 Uniti Cafe 170 Monarch Lane Miamisburg, OH 45342 I21.10220010 Store bel



# What's Encoded in a Retail Tag?

# Inclusion of date code enables date enriched inventory scanning



Use By December 31 2019: Code 12.31.9

#### EAN 13 5060279809402



## **UHF Chip Capabilities**

	EPC	User Memory	Additional Features	Example Chips	Type of Applications
Basic Memory	96 bits 128 bits	0 or 64 bits 0 or 32 bits	Simple Counter Anti-Tamper Range Reduction	Impinj M730/750 Impinj Monza R6/R6-P Impinj Monza 4D NXP UCODE 7 NXP UCODE 8	Item-Level Apparel Logistics WIP Majority of Applications
Additional Memory	128 bits 256 bits 496 bits	512 bits 480 bits 128 bits	Public / Private Range Reduction	Impinj R6-B Impinj Monza 4i/4QT NXP G2iM NXP UCODE 7XM	Industrial Applications WIP
Security High Memory	448 bits 224 bits	2 kbits 3 kbits	Untraceable Digital Signature AES-128 bit	NXP UCODE DNA	Security Applications Brand Authentication

## **Consider Inlay Data Sheets and Application Notes**



Source: https://rfid.averydennison.com/content/dam/averydennison/rfid/Global/Documents/datasheets/Application-Notes-AD321-FCC.pdf Find more at: https://rfid.averydennison.com/en/home/product-finder.html

## **RFID Delivery Formats**



## **Converting RFID**

Many converters can continue working with their preferred conversion equipment manufacturer to identify an efficient and scalable RFID solution.

In addition, an experienced inlay supplier can also help identify important components and functions needed to deliver RFID inlays and tags for specific end uses. However, you must decide what delivery format to convert.

There are three main types of inlay delivery formats: dry, wet and label/sticker. Your equipment capabilities and long term goals in the RFID market will influence which one you'll focus on.



# Which format to convert?



# Label/sticker inlay



Inlay carrier
Chip
Antenna
Pressure sensitive adhesive
Liner
Printable facestock

- Paper or film facestock
- Adhesive and liner
- Printable label
- Die cut
- Facestock can be with our sustainable product Smartface™

# **Dry Inlay Conversion**



## Which Inlay to Convert?



### Dry Inlay

- RFID inlay material, requires adhesive and cutting at point of application
- Aimed at mid-high volume
- Requires dedicated island placement equipment
- More expensive to incorporate into current converting / production operation
- Web based applications
- Typically 1up
- Multi up adds complexity

<complex-block>

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# Wet Inlay Conversion



## Which Inlay to Convert?



#### Wet Inlays

- Self adhesive die cut RFID inlay supplied on a liner / could also be a plain label
- Ideal for short-mid run volume
- Simple process to incorporate into current converting / production operation
- Highly flexible / fast change over process
- Typically 1up Can be multi up
- Ideal for web or sheet / single piece application
- RFID inlays edited to meet your processing / customer yield needs.

A simple label applicator can be incorporated on to current platform. Low cost entry to the RFID market. Add either via a delamination / relamination process for web applications or into a sheet fed / single piece process to apply onto products.



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# **Converting Tips**





## **Converting Tips: Chip Protection**

RFID inlays / tags are electronic devices must be handled accordingly

#### RFID Work Environment

- Floors with antistatic layer coating
- Proper air-conditioning and air humidity
- ESD (Electro-Static Discharge) protection for employees

#### Handling

- Avoid touching IC (chip) side of an inlay
- Avoid laying rolls on top of inlays; always keep inlay reels on their side
- Roll inspection prior to converting

#### Packing

- Packaging material must not create static electricity when handled
- Finish and pack directly after inserting
- In general do not stack RFID products on top of each other

## **Converting Tips: Encoding and Testing**

#### Encoding

- Encoding the IC can done during the imprinting process or in a separate unit
- Avoid laser printers due to high corona and sharp bending around small diameter rollers unless machine has been designed for RFID printing
- Avoid variable information printers with high nip pressure if rollers are not grooved



#### Testing

- It is recommended to have two inline testing points: one before and one after converting
- Yield loss due to mechanical stress, ESD, etc. can be be calculated using these points
- The test system needs to ensure that only the desired inlay is read one at a time
- Failed inlays/tags can be marked or replaced depending on customer service level agreements

## Intelligent Labeling + Custom Label Constructions Guide



## **RFID Application Cases**



## Case study UHF: Inventory Management Medline Surgical

Medline is a leading global company providing quality medical and surgical supplies in North America, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. They partnered with Dipole to find the right RFID solution for their inventory software MedStock

Each surgical kit contains an RFID tag with the item number, lot number and expiration date. An RFID reader installed at the warehouse entrance tracks the inputs and outputs of the equipment providing inventory control in real time. With this hands-free solution, manual stock counting or barcode scanning is gone. Benefits





**XO** 

Precise analysis of the

procedure per patient



Improved picking time and faster preparation for surgery



Increase staff satisfaction



Reduced human error



Easier consumption reporting and efficient purchasing



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## **Logistics & Transportation**

#### Returnable Transport Items (RTIs)

Utilized in all industries that rely on a supply chain it provides a method for moving materials, parts, tools, and finished goods from one location to another.

- Reduce over-buying of RTIs by having accurate inventory visibility across your supply chain
- Execute timely maintenance and cleaning schedules with accurate RTI inventory location
- Prevent operational line-downs with adequate RTI supply levels



## Reynolds Increases Sustainability by Enabling UHF RFID

#### The Challenge

• 60,000 disposable cardboard cartons weekly to 4,000 different customer sites

#### The Results

- £46k annual labour cost saving on assembling and managing cardboard boxes vs reusable trays
- 40% reduction of storage space when storing nested plastic crates versus stacked cardboard
- 92% return rates in the first year of RFID deployment







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