

## Enterprise RFID Companion Frequently Asked Questions

***Q - Why is the military requiring their suppliers to use RFID technology for shipping products to the DoD?***

To increase their efficiency and to improve their supply chain: for supply management, maintenance, distribution, disposal, to reduce outages and overstocks, and for future planning.

***Q - Can suppliers use two separate tags or labels on DOD shipments?***

Yes, it is allowable to use one tag for RFID shipping information and one tag for barcode shipping information under section 3.8, Tag Placement in Version 8.0 of the US DoD Supplier's Passive RFID Information Guide. *"The transponder (RF tag) may be integrated with the shipping label (RFID - enabled labels), or may be an independent entity (where a separate shipping label would also be necessary)."*

***Q - What is a UID and how does that relate to RFID?***

The UID is a 'Unique Identifier', and it pertains to 'item level tracking' on any item or asset that costs over \$5000. According to section 3.3 of the DoD RFID Information Guide, the UID pack currently requires a 2D barcode tag, but new contracts will require an RFID tag on all contracts issued after January 1, 2007. That date has been shoved back and the UID tag still requires a 2D barcode. This can be printed with your RFID printer, using durable polyester labels. Ask your sales rep for additional information.

***Q - Who needs RFID tags?***

Department of Defense contract suppliers which ship product to the DoD are required to have RFID tags. All contractors need to verify that the RFID tags are encoded properly—even if they are using RFID printers and label software with an ERP system. Also, for double verification on pre-encoded tags it is essential to have accurate information. Pre-Encoded tags can be damaged in transit to your shipping location or damaged after placement on shipping case or pallet.

The companies who purchase pre-encoded RFID Tags need to verify at the point of shipment that the tags are encoded properly. We have seen many tags encoded improperly. It is sometimes necessary to re-encode tags with new information and also may need to re-encode in the field or at remote warehouses. This reduces cost to print new tags.

***Q – What about uploading shipping information to the WAWF site—how easy is it to fill out the shipping information on WAWF?***

Contract suppliers need to make sure the WAWF site is filled out accurately so they will be able to receive payment in a timely manner. The RFID information can be transferred to the WAWF in one of three ways: Cut and paste from the Log File to the WAWF site, by using EDI, or by using FTP.

**Q – Can I automatically upload my information to the WAWF site?**

Yes, there are solutions out in the market that allow you for this.

**Q – Do I need a monthly subscription to automatically upload to WAWF site?**

No, it can be free.

**Q - What type of information needs to be included on the DoD RFID tag?**

There are four fields that need to be populated on the RFID tag. The Header includes information about the tag type, the Filter shows whether the tag is for a pallet, case, or UID, the next area contains the CAGE Code, and the last area includes a unique serial number.

**Q – Is there an advantage to purchasing pre-encoded RFID tags from a supplier?**

If a company has a contract with only a few tags, it makes sense to purchase pre-encoded RFID tags. Our experience shows that the number of RFID tags needed increases in large increments. There is a point when it is much more cost-effective to purchase a handheld system that allows you to be in control. You keep a roll of inexpensive RFID Tags on the shelf and create the case or pallet tag as you need it.

**Q – Can I get free training to understand what I need to comply with regarding UID and RFID?**

Yes, there is a program available for training which is co-sponsored by [EnterpriseCompanion.com](http://EnterpriseCompanion.com), AST Consulting and Unitech America

If you would like more information on this free training,  
please email [info@enterprisecompanion.com](mailto:info@enterprisecompanion.com)  
or 1-800-705-9721 ext. 137.

