

RFID - The Basics



Most distributors have heard the term RFID or Radio Frequency Identification. It is a growing technology that gives distributors a way to easily manage inventory with limited human intervention.

Scanco has been developing automatic identification systems for almost 20 years and we see RFID as the next step in helping our customers achieve true inventory control.

This document is a quick reference guide to learn the basics of RFID and find out what services Scanco offers to get you started down the road of RFID.

What is RFID?

Radio frequency Identification (RFID) is a method of automatic identification relying on storing and remotely retrieving data using devices called RFID tags or transponders.

What is an RFID tag?

An RFID tag is an object that can be applied to or incorporated into a product for the purpose of identification using radio waves. Tags are made up of a chip and antenna and are often embedded in labels for distribution environments.

How is RFID different from barcode technology?

To scan a barcode, the user must flash a laser directly onto the barcode to collect the data. The barcode itself is nothing but black and white ink on a page. RFID tags, on the other hand, are an active participant in the scanning process. The RFID reader “excites” or activates the tag by sending out a signal. The RFID tag then responds to the activation by sending out a radio signal detailing the information stored on the tag to the RFID reader. The reader can detect that signal from a distance of many yards.

How are small to medium sized distributors using RFID?

Most small and medium sized distributors (SMB’s) are using RFID internally to expedite inventory movement and increase accuracy.

They are using it to:

- Instantaneously receive inventory
- Track inventory movement within the warehouse
- Expedite shipping
- Meet compliance labeling standards

What services does Scanco offer?

- A full analysis of your warehouse by an RFID Certified Consultant
- A detailed implementation plan
- A list of recommended components for your RFID system
- Installation and configuration of RFID equipment
- RFID labels and equipment

How do I get started?



Contact Scanco at 1-877-SCANCO1 or marketing@scanco.com for a consultation. We will discuss your project goals and help you get started.