



## Using RFID for Shipping and Receiving

In busy shipping and receiving operations, workers often must choose between following established procedures or getting the job done on time. Too often, corners get cut and paperwork gets errors. What follows are inaccurate inventory records, mis-shipments and customer service headaches. Processing outgoing and incoming shipments with RFID delivers the best of both worlds: Data is recorded in less time and with more accuracy compared to manual methods.

Since RFID systems can identify hundreds of items simultaneously, companies can save tremendous amounts of time and labor with RFID-supported processes for checking in goods at receiving or verifying outgoing orders before shipment. And workers don't even have to scan—readers can be mounted on dock doors, forklifts, conveyors and other locations to automatically identify and record everything that passes through.

RFID is exceptionally accurate. Workers may mistakenly write down the wrong information, or scan the same bar code twice, causing downstream problems in inventory and invoicing. RFID readers are extremely accurate and include features to prevent duplicate data entry. Plus, high-speed, unattended RFID reading makes it easy to scan and verify every item, instead of spot checking and entering estimated quantities.

RFID systems for shipping and receiving operations help prevent mistakes that can lead to bigger problems later. A study of more than 7,000 receipt line items from real-world operations found 58 percent of discrepancies between customers and suppliers result from product misidentification during the receiving process—and more than half of these errors could be prevented with EPC-standard RFID systems.<sup>1</sup> The study also found a connection to the bottom line: RFID-enabled receiving processes produce savings between \$0.01 and \$0.03 per case by preventing errors and reducing labor requirements.

RFID-supported shipping and receiving operations have proven their value in early retail and consumer packaged goods implementations and now are spreading to more locations, users and industries. RFID can help any business that regularly ships or receives products. So, instead of choosing to be fast or accurate in these operations, think about choosing RFID instead.

### **Why have over 60 percent of the top U.S. supply chain organizations deployed Zebra® printers throughout operations?**

Because RFID is revolutionizing supply chain operations, and Zebra revolutionized RFID printing. RFID provides visibility through unattended, high-speed reading and monitoring of items on shipping and receiving docks, conveyors, warehouse racks and practically anywhere you need to track goods. Zebra smart label printers let you encode and print RFID labels on demand when and where you need them to improve identification and visibility. Zebra has been providing RFID smart label printers for more than 10 years. Our full range of printer/encoders support many leading RFID technologies and standards, including EPCglobal Gen 2.



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<sup>1</sup> "EPC Changing the CPG Industry Electronic Proof of Delivery." EPCglobal, June 2006.



Because Zebra printers let you link and leverage. Save integration time and money by using our software and network support features to link printers to your legacy enterprise systems. Zebra helps you leverage your printing and IT investments by providing a common platform across its RFID and bar code product lines for sharing label formats, printer management utilities and programming expertise. We also support multiple leading wired and wireless connectivity, networking and security protocols to further extend and leverage your IT systems.

*Because Zebra printers are easy to integrate and hard to beat.* Zebra's connectivity and integration features often enable users to avoid middleware, custom software, interface development, and other integration work that adds cost and complexity to the print system. Thousands of Zebra printers connect with leading WMS, supply chain and ERP applications every day, and special features are available that provide tighter integration and more convenience for users of Oracle® and SAP® applications.

Printers with native XML support let you encode and print bar code and RFID labels, tags, tickets and forms from any application that can output XML. Oracle WMS and Mobile Supply Chain Applications include preconfigured Zebra formats for printing commonly used labels. SAP users enjoy multiple convenient integration options, including built-in support for Zebra printers within SAP applications.

*Because Zebra printers are proven in mission-critical environments all over the world.* Zebra printers have a reputation for being rugged and reliable. Our advanced printer monitoring and management tools help keep them that way. The ZebraLink™ Solutions suite of networking, software and firmware products provides real-time remote monitoring and hands-free management for Zebra printers networked anywhere in your organization. Zebra's solutions let a printer contact you if error conditions exist-by alert message delivered by e-mail, cell phone or pager. Couple this with the powerful remote troubleshooting capabilities and you'll minimize printer downtime.

To learn more, browse the white papers, case studies and other free resources available at [www.zebra.com](http://www.zebra.com).

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#### GLOBAL/AMERICAS HEADQUARTERS

Zebra Technologies Corporation  
333 Corporate Woods Parkway  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061-3109 U.S.A.

T: +1 847 793 2600 or  
+1 800 423 0442  
F: +1 847 913 8766

#### EMEA HEADQUARTERS

Zebra Technologies Europe Limited  
Zebra House, Unit 14, The Valley Centre  
Gordon Road, High Wycombe  
Buckinghamshire HP13 6EQ, UK

T: +44 (0)1494 472872  
F: +44 (0)1494 768251

#### ASIA-PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS

Zebra Technologies Asia Pacific, LLC  
16 New Industrial Road  
#05-03 Hudson TechnoCentre  
Singapore 536204

T: +65 6858 0722  
F: +65 6885 0838

Web: [www.zebra.com](http://www.zebra.com)

#### OTHER LOCATIONS

##### USA

California, Rhode Island, Texas, Wisconsin

##### EUROPE

France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands,  
Poland, Spain, Sweden

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