Zebra™ labelling solutions for intermodal transport

LABELS FOR PRINTING OF ILU CODES
Identification of intermodal loading units in Europe with ILU codes

As of 1st July 2014 and according to European standard EN 13044-1, it has become mandatory to identify all European intermodal loading units with an ILU code. Zebra has developed a label solution to print these codes and meet the requirements of this demanding application.

This regulation introduces a uniform identification system and ensures that all loading units such as semi-trailers and swap bodies have a unique number. The code enables reliable tracking and tracing of units and removes the need for new codes when selling or purchasing used loading units. The new regulation provides owner codes which are technically compatible with software used to process the existing BIC code used for maritime shipping containers. The codes can be read via optical character recognition (OCR) for rapid processing at ports and freight terminals.

Zebra’s new label material 8000T 7 Year Vinyl allows ILU codes to be printed on-demand via thermal transfer printers.

What are intermodal units?

Intermodal transport is the transportation of freight in standardised units such as swap-bodies or semi-trailers. These intermodal units can be used across various modes of transport e.g. rail and road, without the need to unload the freight. ILU codes, printed onto labels, are used to uniquely identify these intermodal units with an owner code. The units must be identified with a code to be used in Combined Transport in Europe.

The ILU Code – how does it work?

The ILU code is an identifier code similar to the worldwide recognised BIC-Code (Bureau International de Containers) used for identifying ISO-standardised maritime containers. The ILU code allows for many more codes to be issued than would be possible with the BIC code due to additional characters within the structure.

Administered by UIRR (International Union of Combined Road-Rail Transport Companies), the ILU code comprises an owner code, registration number and check digit. The ILU code is for units operated exclusively within Europe.

The challenge

Labelling trailers is a challenge because labels need to stick to a variety of surfaces and must resist a wide range of different weather conditions. Furthermore they need to be durable and remain adhered and legible for several years in these conditions. Zebra’s 8000T 7 Year Vinyl meets these needs.
The Zebra solution

ILU codes can be printed on demand using a Zebra printer to create labels which meet the requirements of the regulation. Zebra’s new 8000T 7 Year Vinyl is a gloss white PVC film combined with a high-tack adhesive which offers the strength and durability needed for sticking onto intermodal units. Excellent print quality and image durability is achieved by printing in a Zebra printer using 4800 or 5095 resin ribbons. The combination of Zebra industrial printers, durable vinyl labels and resin ribbons provides the complete solution for this challenging application.

The high-strength solvent based adhesive also gives excellent heat, chemical and UV resistance. These labels can survive up to 7 years* outdoors, providing a durable identification method to meet the requirements of this and many other outdoor applications.

Ribbons

Zebra’s 4800 and 5095 resin ribbons offer excellent print quality and speeds of up to 152mm/sec (6 inches per second). 4800 resin ribbon is ideal for use in harsh outdoor environments, providing excellent resistance to abrasion and chemicals. 5095 resin ribbon offers added resistance to harsh chemicals and higher temperatures.

Zebra printer

For the best in industrial label printers, look to Zebra. Our industrial printers offer unparalleled barcode, text and graphics print quality on a variety of label types. Designed to survive in the harshest industrial environments, these printers perform consistently in 24/7, mission-critical operations. Zebra Xi, ZT200 and ZT400 Series printers have the capability to operate reliably and consistently, where printed output on Zebra labels and tags can withstand a variety of conditions and harsh environments.

*based on central European conditions – lifespan may be shorter or longer depending on actual application conditions.
Wide range of supplies options

Zebra's extensive range of supplies is designed and made by Zebra for use in Zebra printers. All products are extensively tested to ensure best-possible print quality and performance. Using Zebra supplies will give optimum printer performance, minimise printhead wear and tear and protect your hardware investment.

Zebra can provide a wide range of supplies for use in your Zebra printer, including supplies for difficult applications requiring resistance to chemicals or extreme temperatures, and customised supplies with coloured preprints, special shapes, inks or varnishes. As well as these custom-made solutions, Zebra also keeps a range of over 500 labels, tickets, receipts, wristbands and ribbons in stock for fast delivery. Whatever your need for supplies, you can expect high quality, reliability and convenience with Zebra supplies.

Recommended services: Zebra OneCare

Ensure the availability and performance of your devices with Zebra OneCare, our industry leading support plan. This all-inclusive programme offers a range of benefits including comprehensive coverage (including printheads, normal wear and tear and accidental breakage), fast repair turnaround, helpdesk support and optional visibility services.

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