



What You Need to Know Before Talking to Your RFID Label and Tag Provider

Here is some information you should have before contacting a RFID label/tag provider. The answers to these questions will affect how your tag is designed.

- 1. What are the maximum and minimum dimensions of the tag?**
This typically depends on what you are tagging and where the tag will be placed.
- 2. At what distances do you need to be able to read the tag?**
- 3. How many tags do you need to read at a time and how long do you have to read them?**
- 4. To what surface will you affix the tag?**
The tag needs to be tuned to the surface, be it glass, wood, plastic, corrugated, etc.
- 5. Will the tag be flat or bent?**
- 6. Once attached, will the tag ever need to be removed?**
- 7. Is there a security requirement?**
That is, if the tag is removed, does it need to stop working?
- 8. How are you going to encode (write data) to your tags?**
Typical methods include using a RFID printer/encoder, a high speed label applicator, a RFID hand-held, or a stationary RFID reader.
- 9. Do you have to print anything on the tag?**
- 10. If you are using a RFID printer/encoder or high-speed label applicator, what manufacturer/model are you using?**
Your RFID tag provider needs to know what printer/encoder is being used because there are specific insertion specifications for each unit. The inlay has to be placed in the exact position on every label.
- 11. How long is the life-cycle of the tag?**
How long do you expect the tag to work? Do you need the tag to operate for only a year, 15 years, or some time in between? Remember, the wrong antenna materials can oxidize over time, leaving you with a dead tag.