



NOW HEAR THIS!! “Active RFID Migration - It's Here”

After more than six years of planning and hardware and systems modifications, the DOD active RFID (aRFID) enterprise has converted to an entirely open communication standard, International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 18000-7, for tags and interrogators. Both legacy American National Standards Institute (ANSI) 256 tags and the new ISO aRFID tags have been used interchangeably for several years. As of January 1, 2014, only ISO tags that are compliant with the ISO 18000-7 standard protocol should be used in the supply chain. **Be prepared!** Ensure your organization has sufficient ISO 18000-7 tags to support your mission. Below are some answers to frequently asked questions associated with the aRFID migration from the ANSI to the ISO standard:

Q: Why is the DOD migrating from ANSI to ISO?

A: DOD is migrating from ANSI to ISO to promote competition among vendors by using an open international standard which will improve product quality and reduce cost. Additionally, the ISO standard inherently provides for a virtually unlimited supply of unique tag identification (ID) numbers allowing for expanded use of tags (DOD was quickly running out of ANSI tag IDs).

Q: What should users of aRFID tags do to prepare for the January 2014 deadline?

A: DOD has mandated that only ISO 18000-7 aRFID tags be written after January 1, 2014. DOD users should ensure that sufficient ISO 18000-7 tags are on hand to meet requirements. Additionally, sites expected to receive materiel from Maritime Prepositioned Ships, some of which will still have cargo/equipment marked with ANSI tags after January 1, 2014, will maintain dual mode interrogators through the 2015 equipment maintenance cycle when the legacy tags will be replaced with ISO tags.

Q: How do I recognize an ISO tag?

A: All ISO tags have the word "ISO" clearly marked on their label, and most ISO tags have a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port (aRFID license plate tags have no port since they are designed to be written wirelessly). The old ANSI tags have a proprietary port. Additionally, ISO tags have a 14-digit ID number versus a 7-digit ID number for ANSI tags.



Q: Does my current read or write application support reading /writing ISO tags?

A: Yes. All impacted information systems and interrogators have been modified to support the ISO 18000-7 protocol.

Q: Will the old ANSI tags written prior to January 1, 2014, and still in-transit be read by existing aRFID interrogators?

A: Yes, DOD will maintain dual mode interrogators until all ANSI tags written prior to January 2014 have been read through arrival at destination.

Q: How long will dual mode interrogators remain operational in the enterprise?

A: Dual mode interrogators will be replaced through attrition as they fail.

Q: Do I need a docking station to write ISO tags?

A: No. ISO tags can be written using a USB cable with a standard Type A connector on one end and a mini-b (5-pin) connector on the other end (NSN 5995-01-591-5656).



Type A



Mini-b (5-pin)



Q: How do I procure ISO tags?

A: Tags can be ordered through DOD standard requisition procedures. National Stock Numbers for all ISO tag models can be found at http://www.ait.army.mil/Contracts/rfidiii/nsn_for_rfid.html. ISO tags can also be procured through Army's Automated Movement and Identification Solutions (AMIS) using the RFID III Contract (<http://www.ait.army.mil/Contracts/rfidiii/rfidiii.html>).

Q: How do I dispose of the old ANSI tags?

A: ANSI tags should be turned in with proper documentation (e.g. DD 1348 or DD 1149) to any DLA Disposition Services office worldwide (preferably to the local office), unless otherwise directed by a competent authority.

Q: What should I do if my organization has excess ISO tags?

A: Organizations with ISO tags excess to operational or Component requirements should follow the instructions for return of active RFID tags and accessories found in Section F.4 of Chapter 208 of the Defense Transportation Regulation (DTR) Part II page 6 (http://www.transcom.mil/dtr/part-ii/dtr_part_ii_208.pdf).

Q: Whom should I contact with further questions regarding the aRFID migration?

A: Additional questions regarding the aRFID migration can be addressed to USTRANSCOM J4-T at ustcj4-t@ustranscom.mil or AMIS at help.rfitv@us.army.mil. Questions specific to the RFID III Contract should be directed to your Service-specific RFID III Central Order Processing Office (COPO). Service-specific COPOs can be found at <http://www.ait.army.mil/Contact/copo.html>.