



TRACKING UNIFORMS THROUGH MANAGED SERVICES

Bristol Uniforms, one of the world's leading emergency services protective clothing providers, is using an RFID Discovery system from Paragon ID to track nearly 60,000 items of uniform for London Fire Brigade.

With over 4,800 firefighters London Fire Brigade is one of the largest firefighting and rescue organisations in the world. Each of their firefighters is provided with a total of twelve items of uniform, each fitted with an RFID tag. Bristol Uniforms also tracks uniforms supplied to some of their other fire and rescue services customers.

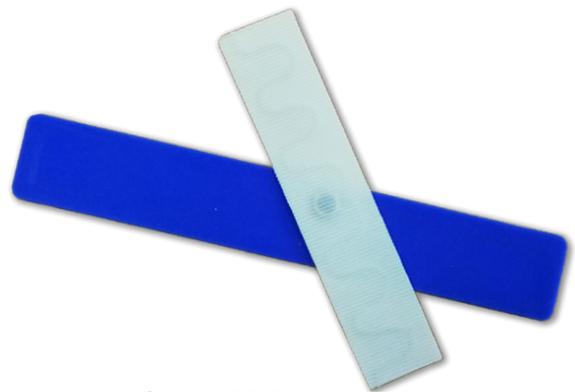
How does it work?

Each newly manufactured uniform item is fitted with a passive RFID tag to enable the automatic tracking of items through the managed services care programme.

The waterproof neoprene fabric RFID tags are securely sewn into a pocket in the garment. They can withstand temperatures of up to 180 degrees, which means they survive in most fire-fighting conditions as well as during professional cleaning procedures. Each uniform item is scanned using a handheld RFID reader at key points of the managed services process, from point of collection at the emergency services through washing, inspection and repair cycles right through to return delivery.

Previously every garment had to be barcode scanned manually on collection, which was time consuming as items had to be handled individually to locate the barcode.

Our RFID labels for garments



Neoprene and fabric RFID tags

This process was also prone to human error. Thanks to RFID, a full collection bag of uniforms can now be scanned in seconds and a complete audit trail of assets automatically recorded.

"The use of RFID readers has reduced the time our drivers spend when collecting garments. A whole collection bag full of items can now be scanned simultaneously and without having to take a single garment out of the bag."

Edward Shepherd, Service Operations Director, Bristol Uniforms

Asset and Inventory Tracking with RFID

Paragon ID's RFID Discovery solution has a proven track record of using RFID technology to track the location of a multitude of different assets in healthcare, logistics and manufacturing industries.

RFID Discovery provides a scalable solution that allows users to quickly collect and report on asset data, replacing error prone manual and paperbased processes. By tracking assets, RFID technology can help reduce the annual capital expenditure on replacement assets by improving utilisation levels and reducing losses of assets.

Inventory can also be monitored automatically and in real-time with the help of fixed RFID readers. Audits of specific locations, i.e. a particular vehicle or room, can be carried out with mobile readers in seconds.



RFID is ideal for tracking items such as

- ▶ **Tools and equipment**
- ▶ **Medical devices**
- ▶ **Documents and records**
- ▶ **Items of evidence**
- ▶ **Communication devices such as radios, mobile phones and tablets**

What is RFID?

RFID (radio frequency identification) can be used to identify or track the location of inventory or assets without human intervention.

Passive RFID systems use small tracking tags, which are attached to each item that needs to be tracked. Each tag contains a uniquely coded microchip and antenna, used to broadcast a signal to a suitable reader. Readers capture the signal and pass it to a central database, which can then be interrogated.

There is no need for direct line of sight when scanning, and hundreds of items can be captured per second.

Key Benefits

- Inventories can be completed in seconds
- Automatic audit trail to ensure compliance
- Saves time so staff resources can be redeployed
- Accurate inventory levels captured in real-time
- Reduces capital expenditure by reducing losses

PARAGON ID

Ensuring traceability of goods and protection of products