

Tracking re-usable PPE with RFID



Due to the growing cost and environmental burden posed by disposable personal protection equipment (PPE) in healthcare settings, reusable garments, in particular multi-use gowns, are becoming increasingly popular.

Reusable gowns normally have a limited life span, and are only safe to use for a specified number of washes. It is therefore crucial to record how many times they have been laundered. In addition, due to the number of reusable gowns being used in hospitals and care homes, it can be challenging to ensure sufficient stock is available in the right place at the right time. And with items going back and forth to laundry services, PPE can easily be lost, leading to additional expense or even worse - shortages in supply.

Key Benefits

- Reduction of losses saves costs
- Process automation means higher efficiency and reduced labour costs
- Real-time visibility of available items
- Improved patient and staff safety
- Sufficient PPE to support infection control standards
- Reducing inventory means less capital is tied up

The solution

By placing a special passive RFID laundry tag in each gown, the healthcare and laundry service provider can each track the location of every item, how many they have sent and received and also how many times items have been used and cleaned. Tags are designed to withstand cleaning procedures and other laundry processes.

RFID Discovery offers a simple and cost effective solution for laundries and their customers to:

- ▶ Automatically track items through the whole cycle of storage, use, transport, cleaning and back into storage
- ▶ Monitor stock levels in key locations to ensure sufficient stock is always available even during acute infection outbreaks
- ▶ Provide valuable data to inform purchase decisions
- ▶ Ensure that the same number of items which were sent to the laundry are returned after cleaning
- ▶ Alert healthcare provider when reusable PPE is coming to the end of maximum number of uses

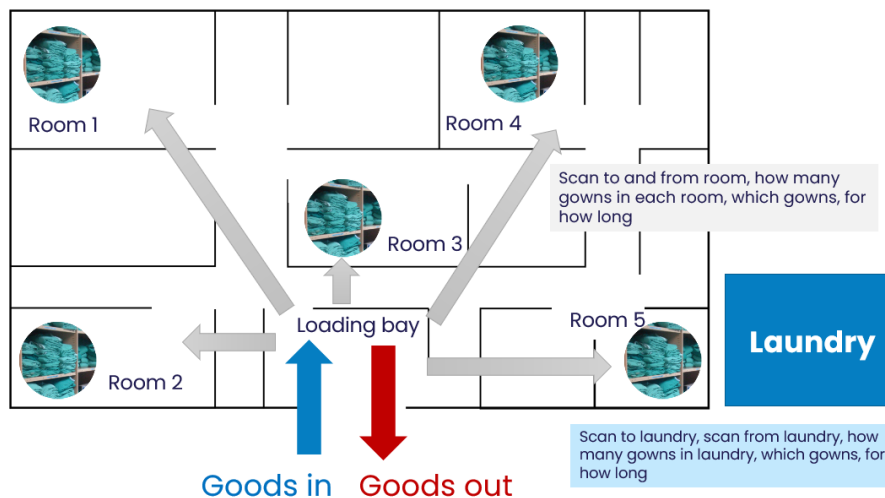
The process

At the laundry items are:

- ▶ **Checked in:** All soiled textiles are read by the RFID system to let the laundry know exactly what type, from where & how many textiles have arrived to be washed.
- ▶ **Sorted:** Dirty textiles are sorted with the support of an RFID antenna to optimise efficiency & reduce labour cost
- ▶ **Washed, dried, ironed and folded**
- ▶ **Sorted:** All clean textiles are sorted with the support of RFID to optimise efficiency & reduce labour cost.
- ▶ **Checked out:** All clean textiles ready to be loaded on the truck are read by an RFID system. Transparency with the customer is improved & billing can be performed based on reliable data.

At the healthcare site items are:

- ▶ **Checked in:** All clean textiles arriving at the customer's warehouse are read by the RFID system to let the customer know exactly how many textiles have arrived from the laundry & which ones.
- ▶ **Put into stock:** Through a portable reader, inventory at the customer premises is performed to make sure all stock has been accounted for.
- ▶ **Used by the staff**
- ▶ **Checked out:** All soiled textiles are read by an RFID system. No more concern or discussion about lost textiles and the laundry is informed about the customer needs before the textiles even arrive.



Complete Hospital Solutions

We specialise in providing integrated tracking solutions, enabling healthcare providers to access location and other key data through a single system.

Solutions include:

- Medical device & other asset tracking
- GS1 asset and location labelling
- Inventory management & theatre kitting
- Automatic temperature monitoring
- Baby tagging
- Staff safety

Why choose RFID Discovery?

RFID Discovery is the recognised brand name for radio frequency identification solutions from Paragon ID, a global leader in identification solutions. Used in a growing number of hospitals across the UK for over 14 years, RFID Discovery is the number one choice for active and passive RFID systems.

Paragon ID is largest manufacturer of passive RFID labels in Europe and accredited to ISO 9001.

