



Service Bureau Tag Commissioning

Options & [FAQ](#)

Omni-ID office locations: US | UK | China | India | Germany

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INTRODUCTION

Omni-ID's Service Bureau capability has repeatedly and successfully improved the time to deployment, saved costs and offered unique flexibility for our customers. The tag deployment process is simplified for end-users and systems integrators as the Omni-ID tag products are supplied as a deployable RFID solution straight out of the box!

Omni-ID's Service Bureau offers a route to mass adoption by removing the customer burden of labor intensive rigid tag commissioning. Our innovative commissioning process and global supply network combine to provide a time and cost saving solution to meet customers' needs.

The Omni-ID Service Bureau offering combines EPC programming with printed barcode and human readable information, which allows customers to integrate the RFID tag within legacy barcode systems to provide a stepping stone to full RFID adaption across any industry.

PROCESS

The Omni-ID tag commissioning service allows customers to specify data for encoding into the EPC memory of the chip inside the RFID tag, and for barcode printing on the outer of the RFID tag with human readable information displayed for easy identification.

A simple menu card system exists in Omni-ID's sales processing system to accurately capture the customers' requirement for EPC serialization type, barcode type, number of EPC characters to include in the barcode and human readable information and it is the customers' responsibility to provide this information.

Sequential data can be cross checked by Omni-ID to ensure it corresponds to the quantity of tags being programmed in the order, whilst non-sequential data cannot. For non-sequential programming, it is a requirement by Omni-ID that the customer provides an excel spreadsheet detailing the EPC numbers and barcode required for each and every tag on the order.

The example on the next page shows what type of information and the format in which we collect it, although the list is not exhaustive of all options and combinations.

Your full requirements should be discussed with your Sales Rep.

Order details	
Product:	Choose an item.
EPC Encoding (Serialization):	Choose an item.
Enter desired starting sequence number:	Click or tap here to enter text.
EPC locking:	Choose an item.
Enter EPC lock password:	Click or tap here to enter text.
Barcode options:	Choose an item.
Print options:	Choose an item.
Human Readable:	Choose an item.

FAQ

Q. What is Omni-ID's Service Bureau?

A. Omni-ID's Service Bureau is an additional product option to print barcodes and human readable information on the outer of the tag, along with associated EPC encoding.

This means that your tags arrive at your facility deployment ready with inventory and associated data pre-programmed.

Q. What is EPC encoding?

A. EPC encoding is the process of programming data into the EPC memory bank of the chip in the Omni-ID tag.

Q. Why do I need to encode the EPC?

A. The EPC memory allocation allows the customer to specify data which is compliant with global standards such as DoD-96, GIAI-96, GID-96, GRAI-96, SGLN-96, SGTIN-96 and SSCC-96.

This is of particular relevance when tags are being supplied into solutions already using RFID, or in open supply chain scenarios where interoperability between parties is required.

See "[Omni-ID Standard Service Bureau reference guide](#)" for assistance with sequencing compliance

Q. Does Omni-ID specify the data to be encoded into the EPC?

A. No. The customer is responsible for providing the EPC encoding information.

If the data is supplied in a sequence, Omni-ID can cross check the start and end numbers to ensure they correspond to the quantity of tags being programmed.

Q. Does the EPC have to be encoded sequentially?

A. No. Omni-ID can encode any set of data into the EPC. If the data is sequential we simply require the start and end numbers but if it is non-sequential we require an excel spreadsheet with a row for each number.

Q. What is encoded using decimal format?

A. Decimal encoding uses characters 0-9 only. This is the correct option if your software can only support these characters.

Q. What is encoded using hexadecimal format?

A. Hexadecimal encoding uses characters 0-9 & A-F. This is the default option for EPC compliant solutions and maximizes the total number of assets which can be uniquely identified.

Q. What if I don't order the Omni-ID tags with Service Bureau?

A. Off-the-shelf tags are not guaranteed to have unique EPC codes, but they are supplied unlocked and can be programmed on demand and on-site either by your systems integrator or your users.

The only way to guarantee a unique EPC code on each tag in your order is to add the Service Bureau option.

Q. What barcodes do Omni-ID offer?

A. The most common barcodes selected by Omni-ID's customers are Code-128 which is a 1-D linear barcode and Datamatrix which is a 2-D barcode.

If 1-D barcode scanners are in use within your asset tracking solution, then a Code 128 is typically used.

If 2-D barcode scanners are in use within your asset tracking solution, then a Datamatrix is typically used.

A sample can be provided for barcode readability testing.

See [Barcode Symbology Reference Guide v1.0.doc] for further information.

Q. How many characters does the barcode contain?

A. The answer to this very much depends on the space available for printing the barcode on the tag. For Omni-ID's smallest products, typically the 5 or 6 rightmost characters from the EPC are displayed, for the mid-size products typically it's anywhere between 6 and 12 rightmost characters, and for the larger tags it can be all 24-32 characters of the EPC.

Options can be discussed with your Sales Rep during the pre-sale discussions.

See "[Omni-ID Standard Service Bureau reference guide](#)" for barcode and number of character combinations.

Q. Do the finished tags have to have a barcode printed?

A. There may be some instances where a barcode is not required by the end-user, or it is redundant in such cases as embedded tags; the EPC would be commissioned prior to embedding but a human readable element is not required. Omni-ID can accommodate such requests, but for validation purposes an inconspicuous and temporary barcode might be created which can be discarded by the customer upon deployment.

For the IQ reel loaded tags that are commissioned using an RFID printer, it is possible to encode the EPC without the need of a barcode.

Q. How is the barcode and human readable information displayed on the Omni-ID tags?

A. Reel loaded label tags are supplied with the barcode and human readable information printed directly on the top surface of the label.

Rigid (hard) tags are supplied with the barcode and human readable information printed on either a synthetic label which is applied to the tags top surface, or directly printed (DPM) onto the tags encasement in either black or white ink.

Q. Are the prices different for label or DPM finish?

A. The Service Bureau price is the same for the label option and the DPM option. The customer needs to specify at the time of placing the order what the preferred marking method is.

Q. Are there any temperature limitations between label or DPM?

A. The marking methods that Omni-ID use for barcode and human readable information are durable enough to withstand the operating temperature for the product that it is being applied to.