



RFID Technology and Asset Management What You Need to Know

BACS™

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Radio Frequency Identification, more commonly known as RFID, is defined as the wireless non-contact use of radio frequency electromagnetic fields to transfer data. LEID Products uses RFID technology to automatically identify and track tags attached to assets in its BACS System.

RFID tags contain electronically stored information (i.e. a unique identifying number) that can be read by a corresponding RFID Reader. Gone are the days of manually tracking assets, whether it is library books, shared tools at a manufacturer's warehouse or especially weapons and other sensitive police department assets. The use of RFID technology makes tracking these assets easy, and eliminates manual processes that can be time consuming, costly and frustrating.



One of the most obvious benefits of RFID technology within the BACS System is the fool proof process. It provides more in depth benefits, including constant tracking which diminishes the potential for error. Considering how important RFID technology is to our product and business, we would like to share a little bit about the two major types of RFID tags: active RFID and passive RFID. Both use radio frequency energy to communicate between a tag and a reader, but the power source behind each tag is very different:

- **Active Tags** can be read from longer distances than passive; however, they use an internal battery as its power source, limiting its life expectancy. The average life span is between one and three years. The most common use for an active RFID tag is in commercial products – retail suppliers use them to track products through the supply chain. Asset management systems using active RFID tags track asset movement in and out of large open areas with an RFID reader at the entry or 'choke point.' However, this asset management system does not typically lock the assets individually or tie the movement of the asset to a specific individual, limiting overall accountability.
- **Passive Tags** do not use batteries and therefore, have a virtually unlimited life span. These tags rely on radio frequency energy transferred from RFID readers to power the tag. Passive RFID tags require a closer range than active tags in order to be read. Passive tags, coupled with electronic storage units and an access control system, creates a closed loop, fully accountable asset management system. In the BACS System, assets are individually locked until the system can positively identify an authorized user. This method ensures the highest level of accountability.



The [BACS Asset Management System](#) consists of tamper proof electronic lockers and gun racks interfaced to a biometrically accessed ID Station Kiosk serving as the control point for access to assets stored in the system. Police departments can ensure accountability, tracking and inventory needs for shared equipment with little time and effort. Utilizing RFID and biometric technology, the BACS system eliminates time-consuming and error prone manual asset transfer record keeping. This allows officers to single handedly pick up and drop off department assets. The system tracks all maintenance requirements and timing, as well as keeps detailed records of previous usage for every asset stored in the system. Through remote access, department leaders and administrators can administer and monitor the system at all times.



For more information on achieving true accountability for your organization's most valuable assets, visit: www.leidproducts.com