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## February 2008 Newsletter

### UID Registry

Have you ever wondered how many other companies are putting a UID mark on their products that ship to the Department of Defense (DoD)?

The initial policy requiring the inclusion of item unique identification (IUID) was released in July 2003, making it mandatory in all new solicitations from the DoD after January 1, 2004. The DFARS 252.211-7003 clause requires UID marking for all items worth more than \$5000, mission critical or serial managed. Yet in a study of FY 06 it showed over half of the solicitations were still missing the DFARS clause. In addition, the IUID requirement has been extended to include marking of legacy items and government furnished property.

After marking the data matrix on an item, the data must be submitted to the UID registry by the entity selling the product to the DoD. The UID registry was established as the single point of reference for all DoD tangible items. Its purpose was to collect, store and distribute key information on all tangible items in DoD. The first data received into the UID registry was in August 2004. As of October 3, 2007, approximately 1.9 million items were registered with 1.2 million of these being new items (738,755 were legacy items, 144,564 are GFP status). These new items were registered by 838 different contractors of which 53% were small businesses. The growth rate was over 20,000 new UIIs per week. (\*\* This data was taken from a presentation by Robert Leibrandt at The UID Dialogue Program October 2007)

The IUID registry is rapidly growing and reportedly reached 2.6 million items in January 2008.

### MIL-STD-130N Revised December 2007

MIL-STD-130N was released 17 December 2007 and replaces MIL-STD-130M (change 1). Mil-Std-130N contains over 70 revisions and clarifications. It is a document which you must follow if you are marking any US Military property. We suggest you download a copy for your files and reference it when designing item identification markings. If you have questions we are available assist you.

To obtain the updated version of Mil-Std-130N please visit:  
[http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/basic\\_profile.cfm?ident\\_number=35521](http://assist.daps.dla.mil/quicksearch/basic_profile.cfm?ident_number=35521)

Some of the key changes in Mil-Std-130N are as follows:

**Section 5.2.4** Syntax ...format indicator "12" for Text Element Identifiers (TEI).

COMMENT: In the past "DD" was used as the format indicator for TEI encoding, but with this new revision "DD" is no longer allowed when making new data matrix. You are not required to change items that are already marked, but "12" should be used on any new data matrix. If you currently specify "DD" in the data string or format, your drawings/ specifications should be updated to reflect this change.

**Section 5.2.7.2** Data Matrix Symbol Quality has been revised significantly. ... Any of the approved verification methods (ISO/IEC 15415, SAE AS 9132, or AIM DPM 1-2006) may be used for verifying all marking procedures and *at the supplier's choice*.

COMMENT: Prior to this revision. ISO/IEC 15415 was required for labels (photoanodized aluminum & polyester) and AS 9132 was used for any laser etched mark or direct part marks. AIM-DPM 1-2006 is a new verification standard which in general allows better reads on most surfaces and materials.

UID Label & Beyond currently uses all three standards. Each standard evaluates the print quality in a slightly different way so reports look different. In addition we use both Siemens and Cognex equipment so once again the verification report you receive may appear different. All reports include the required data and meet Mil-Std-130N requirements.

**Section 5.2.7.2.e** provides guidance for application of the Data Matrix symbol to a curved surface, restricting the symbol size to 32% of the radius (16% of the diameter or 5% of the circumference) associated with the curvature of the surface.

COMMENT: If you are marking a cylinder 1" in diameter the data matrix can be no larger than .16" high (also the cell size cannot be smaller than .075). In reality, depending on the amount of data encoded and marking method, it may not be possible to produce a data matrix which can be verified on this small an item. On small parts it may be necessary to tag the part or mark the bag the part is shipped in.

**You may be interested in the following:  
Technology Demonstration and Future Vision Videos**

The UID Policy Office has developed 2 new videos, *IUID Technology Demonstration Video* and *IUID Future Vision Video*. The *Technology Demonstration Video* provides an overview of steps required to implement IUID into existing practices. In addition, the video addresses details regarding the mark requirements and the different technologies available (such as scanners) to make IUID implementation successful. The *IUID Future Vision Video* demonstrates examples of the power of data that are extracted from implementing IUID. Details including linking data across multiple systems and the future of IUID are also presented. Both of these videos can be found online at <http://www.acq.osd.mil/dpap/pdi/uid/training.html>

If you watch carefully you will see several labels produced by UID Label and Beyond LLC.

## **March 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>**

I will be out of the country from March 24<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup>. We would appreciate if you could place orders and require deliveries prior to, or after that week if possible. While I will not be available personally, Shelly, Bruce and Scott will be available to process you routine orders while I am gone. Special requests may need to wait for my return.

## **UID Label & Beyond LLC**

The year 2007 was a year of rapid growth for UID Label & Beyond. Thank you for your continued support and business.

Looking forward to 2008 we anticipate continued rapid growth. Pricing will not change in 2008.

We continue to add new materials and marking methods to our services. Currently we produce labels in the following materials: photo anodized aluminum (Metalphoto); stainless steel with laser etched Cermark; Aluma Mark; Laser etched anodized aluminum; Polyester; and Kapton. In addition UID Label & Beyond now offers silk screening (direct part marking) data matrix marks onto metals and fiberglass. If you require laser etched direct part marks we have a facility that can provide this service.

If you have a special material or process requirement please contact us. We are pleased to assist you in meeting the requirement or finding a source.

Thanks again for your business.

Elaine Kay