Returnable Container Management

The Business Problem
Businesses face significant difficulties in effectively managing their reusable, returnable assets their supply chains depend on. These Returnable Transport Items (RTI’s) include high-value metal racks, plastic dunnage, bins, totes, and wooden packaging. The inability to accurately track the shipment and return of reusable containers can cause shortages leading to delayed shipments or necessitate the use of temporary packaging, costing additional time and money.

Many businesses respond by carrying large safety stocks of containers which are prone to loss, theft, damage, obsolescence, and require large amounts of storage space, negatively impacting cycle times. Containers are often lost or not returned from downstream points in the supply chain, and businesses are challenged to hold their supply chain partners accountable.

The Solution
Lowry Solutions' Container Management system enables efficient reusable asset control by tracking unique RFID tags associated with each container. With enhanced visibility, the container management system reduces lost items and improves accountability by making it easy to track container movement, shipments, and returns. The container management system maintains accurate inventory status, showing containers that are available for use, in transit, at supplier facilities, or awaiting maintenance. The container management system provides accurate liability exposure.
The Technology
The Lowry Container Management solution utilizes industry standard UHF RFID technology. This allows a large selection of RFID tag choices. RFID tags can be selected based on the material construction of the containers being managed, as well as other selection criteria such as desired read distance and environmental factors.

The system can be implemented using fixed RFID readers at choke points, such as shipping dock doors, or it can be used with mobile RFID readers allowing users to inventory containers wherever they are located. A combination of both fixed and mobile readers can also be implemented. All of the RFID equipment is managed through a single RFID middleware platform. The RFID middleware performs RFID device configuration and management, data aggregation, filtering and validation.

Reference Link:
Global Guideline for Reusable Containers
http://www.prweb.com/releases/AIAG/09/prweb4591874.htm