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.
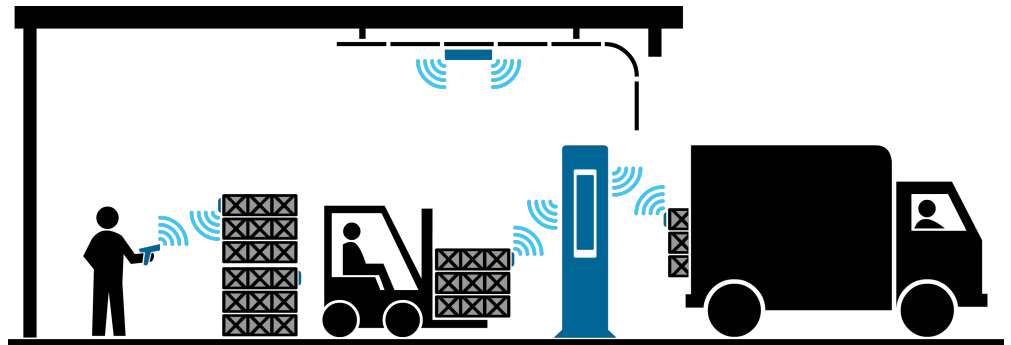
The Solution

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.

FEATURES/BENEFITS

» Easily track container shipments and who is accountable for their return

» Automatically track reusable assets at shippping, receiving, and remote locations with RFID

» Quickly locate specific assets or take inventory

» Track container movement within facilities and monitor critical processes

» Schedule and track maintenance, repair and operations (MRO) activities

» Monitor available inventory levels

» Interface to existing inventory or enterprise management systems

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

> "
> The percentage of container budget expended by companies to replace non-disposable containers/racks is greater than 7%.
> "
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> - AIAG

About Lowry

Since 1974, Lowry Solutions, Inc. (formerly Lowry Computer Products) has helped its customers make informed business decisions and become more competitive in the marketplace. The company provides the most innovative barcode, RFID, biometrics, enterprise mobility, asset management and inventory control solutions that reduce operational costs, heighten productivity, and improve process efficiency in an array of vertical markets. Its enterprise mobility solutions empower the mobile worker through real-time communication and data access solutions.
See more at www.lowrysolutions.com

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