

Understanding RFID Licensing

A further overview of how it works

A Technical White Paper from:

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Global Marking Solutions for Enterprise Applications

Overview

Loftware introduced RFID Printing in version 8.0. The sections below are aimed at giving a better understanding on how RFID capabilities are licensed in the Loftware Print Server (LPS).

Licensing

There is some very specific licensing and version information that one needs to be aware of when printing RFID labels with the LPS. To view the licensing that is enabled where Loftware is installed, open Design32, select “Help” and then “About Loftware Label Manager”. A licensing dialog box appears displaying the licensing options available. There are five items of interest to pay particular attention to. The items are: Version, Serial Number, Printer Seats, RFID Printers, and RFID Enabled.

Version:	8.0.2.1
Serial Number:	RL- LPS[50/10] [10] [3] P{MSNRCOD}00050626
Printer Seats:	50
RFID Seats:	10
RFID Enabled:	Yes

- Version –Version 8.0.2.1 or higher must be installed
- Serial Number – Signifies the licensing of Loftware. The “Premier Plus RFID Edition” of Loftware Print Server is required for RFID functionality. This is specified by the “P” preceding the Print Server Tools list and the “D” at the end. You must have both. (P{MSNRCOD})
- RFID Seats – Displays the number of RFID Printers that can be configured and printed to. This number is not in addition to the numbers of printers that Loftware is licensed for. For instance, in the example above this license has 50 total printer seats, 10 of which can be configured for RFID.
- RFID Enabled – “RFID Enabled” must be set to yes

Running Loftware in Demo Mode

When Loftware is running in “Demo Mode¹” up to 499 printers can be configured. However, only printers one through four can print to actual printers. These printers can be RFID Printers or standard label printers. As always, when printing in “Demo Mode” data supplied prints with scrambled characters. This is also true for RFID labels.

A valid license with “RFID Enabled” set to “NO”

Any number of RFID printers can be configured with a license that has “RFID Enabled” set to “NO”. The printers will be displayed in a red font. Printing is not allowed to any of these printers displayed in red. If printing is attempted in any loftware application, an error message is generated.

A valid license with “RFID Enabled” set to “YES”

¹ To open Loftware in Demo Mode, install the evaluation version or remove the license key from a system with an existing Loftware installation.

One can configure and print to as many printers as there are RFID Printer seats Available in the Loftware license.

Running out of RFID Printer seats

Attempting to configure a RFID printer after the RFID printer seats have been filled the font will turn red. An error message will be displayed. The error message reads: “(M1652) Insufficient RFID Printer licenses to add this printer”. The printer will not stay configured.

Creating labels for RFID Printing

Labels for RFID printers can be created regardless of the license that Loftware has.

EPCglobal® Standards

Loftware follows the standards set forth by EPCglobal®, which is a joint venture between EAN International and the Uniform Code Council (UCC). They create the global standards which are necessary for tracking goods through the supply chain using RFID tags.

At the time of this writing, EPC standards and the equipment used to produce the tags are still evolving and are expected to do so for quite some time. Table 5-1 lists the standards that were followed during the development of the Loftware RFID functionality. We strongly recommend that you obtain a copy of these specifications for your reference. Loftware remains committed to providing service packs and new releases as the standards continue to evolve and new equipment becomes available. Please check the online documentation on the Loftware website often for the latest changes to the EPC standards, as well as changes to the Loftware RFID Module as a result.

Standard	Location	Version or File Name
EPC Tag Data Standards	www.epcglobalinc.org	Version 1.1 Rev. 1.24
Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) Guide	www.uc-council.org	GTIN.pdf
Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) Guide	www.uc-council.org	SSCC.pdf
Global Location Number (GLN) Guide	www.uc-council.org	GLN.pdf

Table 1: Specifications used by Loftware for calculating EPC compliant RFID codes