

Why use bar codes?

- ▶ Save time, reduce data entry errors
 - ▶ Extremely cost effective to streamline processes
 - ▶ Hardware and software provided
 - ▶ Help choosing the equipment right for you
 - ▶ Download data quickly and reliably, using a method to suit you
- ▶ Less data entry
 - ▶ Increased accuracy
 - ▶ Faster data update
 - ▶ Reduced misinterpretation
 - ▶ Mobile data entry capabilities

Any printed information can be misinterpreted and manual data entry can be laborious and prone to errors.

Using bar coded information on input and output documents can save you time and reduce errors found with traditional data entry methods.

Bar coding is used world wide and is a well-established, widely accepted technology. Relatively straightforward to implement, bar coding can be extremely cost effective.

Bar codes can be applied to any internal, incoming or outgoing documents and can bring significant benefits in a variety of situations.

Using the different bar code technologies and label types, there is virtually nowhere too hostile for the reliable use of bar codes for data input.

How can I use bar codes?

Streamline your goods in process by using bar codes to add relevant data to incoming documents (a delivery note/goods receipt note).

Typical information would be:

- ▶ Part Number
- ▶ Order Number
- ▶ Quantity
- ▶ Unit of Measure

Additional information like a Delivery Advice Note Number and Manufacturers Batch/Lot Number can also be bar coded.

Accurately and reliably record any stock movements to avoid issues like product delays.

Bar coding Parts, Locations, and/or Lot Numbers and employing on the spot/mobile data capture means you can track what went where, when and who took it.

Technology, printing and media

At Answer we offer our customers both the hardware and the software necessary to make bar coding a practical and valuable tool.

In conjunction Sandpiper, one of our partner companies, we can also advise on the most suitable method for implementing your chosen bar coding solution. We can help make those vital decisions for hardware, media and symbology to be used.

The choice of symbology (such as Code 39, EAN, IFF and so on) will normally be determined by standards within trading partners and manufacturing sectors.

A standard laser printer will be enough for straightforward printing of bar codes on picking lists, work orders, despatch notes and so on. Generally these documents are not exposed in or to a harsh environment.

For more specialist label printing, a dedicated thermal or thermal transfer bar code printed will be required.

A suitable medium to print bar codes onto can be found, whether this is for indoor or outdoor use, temperature ranges of minus 40 degrees to over 200 degrees C. The medium you choose will be based on the environments in which you use bar codes.

Scanning bar codes

There is a wide choice of equipment for scanning bar codes; wands, wedges, laser scanners.

In conjunction with Sandpiper, Answer Solutions can help guide you to make the best choices for your needs.

For some companies, a simple wedge device that sits between a PC and the keyboard is all that is needed. Other companies will need a laser scanner to keep up with demand, either hand held or truck mounted.



Scanning devices

Download bar code data

The Answer Modules you use will usually determine the data download method required.

There are three options:

- ▶ Industry standard RF technology – you are directly online to Answer at all times
- ▶ Store and forward – data is downloaded in batches and passed into the Answer External Systems Integration module
- ▶ Hybrid – a mixture of RF and store and forward devices

Documents available in Answer Enterprise

Answer Enterprise provides an increasing number of documents that can optionally print bar codes as standard. These include:

- ▶ Work Order/Schedule Manufacturing Batch Traveller
- ▶ Work Order/Schedule Manufacturing Receipt Tags
- ▶ Purchasing Goods Received Labels and Tags at time of PO Release or PO Receipt
- ▶ Planned Receipts Reporting
- ▶ Quality Assurance Test Request Sample Labels
- ▶ Work Order/Schedule Sample Labels

For more information visit the Answer Solutions website or contact us.

Answer Solutions Ltd

The Innovation Centre
Festival Drive
Ebbw Vale
NP23 8XA

w: www.answersolutions.com

e: info@answersolutions.com

t: 01495 356771

f: 01495 356774