

IUID SUCCESS

Ignore IUID Data at Your Peril

When the dust settled from the UID Forum in Orlando it was apparent that the conference produced the largest turn out of IUID professionals of any UID Forum to date – by a long shot. This reinforces that momentum continues to build at a faster rate than ever before.

With many new faces from the conference, we want to surface a topic that we here at A2B have been stressing for years – data management.

Data is often the last issue to be considered when people deal with unique asset identification for IUID. Ignore data at your peril, however, because data offers the greatest potential for “land mines” in the entire compliance process.

Here’s a puzzle for you to solve: What would happen should the wrong pedigree (incorrect syntax) be encoded into a MIL STD 130 plate that is then riveted or somehow permanently affixed to an item and that incorrect data is also sent to the IUID Registry? What would be required to unravel that incorrect IUID?

Although the answers are not printed upside down, here are the steps that would be required:

1. Remove the item from the IUID Registry.
2. Remove the MIL STD 130 barcode from the item itself. This can be a challenge for deployed items.
3. Recreate the correct MIL STD 130 barcode.
4. Affix the new barcode and send the correct data to the IUID Registry.

Now multiply that by hundreds or thousands of items and you have a nightmare on your hands.

There is one more wrinkle in this puzzle. What if the incorrectly marked IUIDs get into the supply chain? That would mean the bad barcodes are being scanned and bad data is populating systems for procurement, engineering, maintenance, property management and logistics.

UID Requires a Team Approach

We had some feedback, following our most recent [UID Web Seminar](#) that clearly illustrates the importance of tackling IUID with a team approach. One attendee wrote, “Please accept our thanks and appreciation to both A2B and David (Collins of [Data Capture Institute](#)) for bringing us an informative hour that was well spent. Everyone on our team sat together, property management, purchasing, operations and executive departments, up to and including our president. We heard as one the inevitability of moving ahead with IUID.”

Time and again we hear from individuals who have been tasked with implementing IUID, and inevitably those individuals become frustrated with the internal struggle to involve all business functions that are impacted. Group education is a very effective way to keep everyone aligned with the impact of IUID.

To IUID champions everywhere we offer this advice: Take a team approach to lighten your burden. Start involving all stakeholders early in the process. Be sure everyone is educated about IUID requirements and impact.