

CHINA RFID STANDARDS

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CHINA RFID NATIONAL STANDARDS

I. Historical Development of NPC

- 1980s, first product code center established in General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of China;
- 1989, GB 11643: National Personal ID Code standard;
- 1990, GB 11714: National Enterprise ID Code standard;
- 2003, GB 18937-2003: National Product ID Code standard; Registration with Current NPC;
- 2004, RFID National Standards Working Group;
- GB 18937-2003 v. RFID

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II. Current Status of RFID Standards

- RFID national Standards Working Group established at the beginning of 2004.
- No standards will be issued by the end of this year, according to the Group on September, 2004.
- A draft of the RFID standards may be presented to the State Standardization Committee by the end of this year.
- After the draft being presented, the Standardization Committee will probably review and approve it next year, but no certainty.

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III GB 18937-2003 v. EAN, UPC & EPC

- UPC v. EAN
- UPC&EAN v. EPCglobal
- Before and after GB 18937-2003 in China
 - Used to follow European standard EAN
 - Exporters to northern America followed UPC
 - GB 18937-2003 is not compatible with two of the above, even though it was designed to have the potential to become compatible with EPCglobal, according to NPC Center.
 - Even though the rule is mandatory in theory, few companies have registered with the NPC Center in accordance with GB 18937-2003 standard.

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IV. Impact on Foreign Companies in China

- If China's RFID standard will not be compatible with the international standard, negative impacts will take place;
- Currently in reality, foreign companies' registration with GB-18937-2003 is not mandatory, but on a voluntary basis;
- A rule is a rule; Wait & See;
- Good news for foreign companies: More support for International Standard has been heard recently from inside domestic Chinese companies.

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V. Look Forward

- Get back to the basis: The reason behind RFID is to better the records and to facilitate trade domestically and internationally. If China RFID standard does not meet such needs, it will have difficulties to be enforced, like some other unreasonable rules which sooner or later will be or have been changed or disappeared. On the other hand, if the RFID standard will meet such needs, it will soon become popular. There have been positive signs to show that China is trying to move in the right direction.