

WHAT IS THE EPC™ NETWORK?

With the new EPC™ network, computers will allow manufacturers to track and trace items automatically throughout the supply chain. Here's how it works:

1. The Auto ID Center is developing a network that connects computers to objects – enabling anything in the supply chain to be identified, counted and tracked automatically.
2. Electronic Product Codes (EPCs™) are embedded in microscopic Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags, which are attached to objects, cases and pallets. Every EPC™ is a unique identifier.
3. RFID readers can “see” the objects and query computers that give information about that object. The object now can be identified by manufacturers, distributors and retailers – anywhere, anytime in the global supply chain.
4. If an incident involving a defect or tampering arises, the source of the problem can be tracked and the products can be recalled.

