Project Concept

Guidance on Technologies for the Identification, Monitoring and Tracking of Reusable Transport Packaging Assets

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Project Objective: To raise awareness and to provide guidance on current and emerging technologies for the identification, monitoring and tracking of reusable transport packaging products.

Background: New product and service innovations in the identification, monitoring and tracking of reusable transport packaging products such as pallets, bins and containers are offering breakthrough capabilities for asset management, supply chain visibility and real-time data capture. From barcode label scanning to radio-frequency identification (RFID) to Internet of Things (IoT) connectivity, for example, the availability of high-performing and cost-effective technologies are generating new data opportunities, product applications and packaging values.

But rapidly changing advancements in cutting-edge technologies and wide variations in product and application objectives can increase the complexity in determining the right path forward for users of reusable packaging systems. Simply there is no one way or single technology to deliver every benefit or to solve every problem. How do current and prospective users of reusable packaging systems approach identification and tracking technologies to find and deploy the right tools for their particular needs?

The RPA Operations & Logistics Committee can pursue a project to increase the understanding of available technologies and to assist members and users of reusable packaging in exploring options that are right for their business, supply chain and packaging objectives.

Method: RPA Operations & Logistics Committee members draw from knowledge, experiences and resources to develop content and recommendations reflecting expert consensus. Non-members may be invited to participate to achieve broader representation.

Deliverables:

(1) Industry white paper on the state of technologies for the identification and tracking of reusable transport packaging assets.
(2) Matrix or menu graphic that offers a map or decision tree matching use objectives and parameters with technology options.
(3) Set of recommendations of industry standards or specifications around the technologies that could bring about consistencies and compatibilities for their successful use and growth with reusable packaging.