



The Benefits of Barcode Scanning:

A barcode is a representation of some data so that it can be read optically using a barcode scanner. Use of barcodes provides a fast, easy and accurate mechanism to enter data into a computer system for data collection or data lookup. Since their invention in the early 1950s, bar codes have been used in several markets to accelerate the flow of products and information throughout the global business community.

The benefits of barcodes stem from the fact they streamline acquisition of data for use in computer based processing, in ways that are automatic, accurate, fast and flexible and involve a degree of identification. Barcode scanning provides a reliable, fast and error free alternative to input data. Since this data can be associated with any item, benefits of barcode scanning can be realized in virtually every industry, commerce and services in which data is gathered for use in computer based systems.

Improve Operational Efficiency

Since barcodes permit faster and more accurate recording of information, work in process can move quickly and be tracked precisely. Quite a bit of time can be spent tracking down the location or status of projects, folders, instruments, materials, or anything else that moves within an organization. Barcodes can help you keep better track so you can save time and respond more quickly to inquiries and changes.

Save Time

Depending on the application, time savings can be significant. Often the most dramatic examples involve the beloved chore of taking inventory. One customer needed a crew of 25 employees working over a weekend to take the 6-month inventory; with barcodes this was reduced to 4 employees and a total of about 5 hours. Even in routine day-to-day operations the time savings of barcodes add up and improve productivity. Consider a shipment of 10 cartons; it will take approximately 2 minutes or more to write down product codes and serial numbers compared to about 10 to 20 seconds to scan the barcodes. In a busy operation this can be a significant saving.

Reduce Errors

Clerical and data entry errors can be a significant source of costs and related problems: extra freight costs, unhappy customers, and time spent to track down problems are just a few examples. In some situations, clerical errors can have a much more dramatic impact; consider the importance of accuracy in pharmaceutical or blood bank applications. The typical error rate for human data entry is 1 error per 300 characters. Barcode scanners are much more accurate; the error rate can be as good as 1 error in 36 trillion characters depending on the type of barcode used.

Cut Costs

Barcodes are effective tools that can be used to address specific, localized problems or integrated into organization-wide information systems. When applied with thought and planning they can save time and reduce errors, resulting in a reduction of costs.

Benefit from Customer or Regulatory Requirements

Regulatory agencies or your customers may impose labelling requirements that you must meet. While these requirements may be a necessary part of doing business, you can save time and money by utilising the barcodes within your own operations. For example, you can collect shipping manifest information quickly and accurately by scanning the barcode labels that you printed to satisfy the customer.