

Case Study

Inventories in seconds with RFID

A large energy provider uses Brady's RFID solution to efficiently track office furniture from a central warehouse and to create office furniture inventories in seconds at multiple office locations.



Case Study Overview



Challenge

Efficiently manage thousands of furniture items



Solution

On- and off-metal RFID labels and readers



Result

Inventories in seconds, anywhere



Challenge

Efficiently manage 500 000 office furniture items

A large energy provider centrally manages about 500 000 office furniture items including desks, tables, chairs and filing cabinets. Part of those are stored in a central warehouse, while most are actively used at offices in various locations.

Office furniture inventories, correctly identifying damaged or excess items for pick-up and delivering the right furniture to the right location, became a time-consuming process and the energy provider contacted identification specialist Brady to help think about an efficient and sustainable solution.

Why Brady?

Brady offers solutions that deliver in the workplace. Just like our labels, we stick with our customers to solve real issues using reliable solutions that identify people, products and premises.

www.bradyeurope.com

Solution

Off- and on-metal RFID labels and readers

Brady proposed an efficiency increasing identification solution with tough, reliable labels embedded with battery-free RFID chips and antennas. Versus the QR-coded labels the energy provider was using, RFID labels offer the advantage that they can be read from a distance with RFID readers.

► Tough, reliable RFID labels

From an extensive RFID label portfolio, Brady selected tough off- and on-metal RFID labels. These enable radio signals to be picked up by RFID readers without interference. The label materials used can resist abrasion and a wide enough temperature range so that they remain legible and stay attached for years.

After agreeing with the customer on label layouts, Brady started to print and program the RFID labels in its production facilities. Each label produced includes a human readable unique serial number, QR-code and digital identity number that can be picked up by RFID readers in range. All labels are delivered to the energy provider's central warehouse.

When furniture is labelled, the printed RFID labels are written to the energy provider's central databases, where the unique furniture identifier is linked to all relevant information.

► Readers & software

To easily find labelled furniture, Brady delivered portable HH83 RFID readers. These readers can pick up hundreds of RFID signals in seconds to create a room inventory without needing close proximity or even a line of sight on every item.

Brady equipped the HH83 with a custom software package that enables easy item filtering to search for specific furniture types, and for single items. Home-in capabilities have been added to guide users to items with on-screen visuals and sounds. After a completed scan, users are alerted via sound and all data can be stored locally on the reader for export at the warehouse.

Results

Inventories in seconds

To find out which furniture is present, all it now takes is to walk into a room with a portable RFID reader to create a digital inventory in seconds. Any item that needs replacement or pick-up can be selected on-screen to guide users to it with sound and visuals. In addition, the RFID readers can be used to find misplaced items.

Back at the warehouse, accurate and actual asset and location data can deliver information on furniture history, depreciation and renewal. This enables the energy provider to save a ton of time, and to manage thousands of assets efficiently and sustainably.



Every asset a unique digital identity

With our complete RFID solution, assets in any industrial environment can be given unique digital identities just by applying a label. Users will be able to identify and locate labelled assets all at once, from a distance, in real time, without needing line of sight.