ALEC Response Resources

ALEC Team

AUBURN UNIVERSITY RFID LAB | 1550 E GLENN, AUBURN, AL 36849

Table of Contents

Spec Recommendation

Please use Spec XXX. Please place the RFID tag as per the recommendation in the tagging guideline.
Spec link: https://rfidarc.auburn.edu/temp/inlays/spec-y.php

*To change spec in link, replace the "y" at the end of the link for the spec the supplier is supposed to use.

Submission Update

Hi,

This change to this submission requires a new submission. You do not need to resubmit tags if the inlay model is not changing. If changing tagging location, please ensure there is a visible EPC logo on the outside of the product.
https://rfidlab.org/submissionupdate/

Item File Update

Hi,

We have updated the process for adding items to a previous submission. If you would like to add UPCs/GTINs to a previous approval, please fill out the form below. Each item must have the same product supplier, brand, packaging type, packaging provider, RFID inlay model, and tagging location. Please ensure that you use the template linked in the form. In order to complete the form, you will need the submission ID and approval ID of the submission that you would like to update.

https://rfidlab.org/wmitemfileupdate/

Product Test

Single Item

Hi,

We need to test the product to make a tag recommendation. Can you please ship 5 samples of the product with the full product packaging? Please fill out the form and include the PDF confirmation with the shipment. https://rfidlab.org/producttest/.

The code for the form is 36830.

Multiple Items

Hi,

We need to test the products to make a tag recommendation. Can you please ship 5 samples of each product with the full product packaging? Please fill out the form and include the PDF confirmation with the shipment. https://rfidlab.org/producttest/.

The code for the form is 36830.

Out Of Scope Items

Single Item

Hi,

This item is out of scope at this time. RFID solutions for these products are under development and we will contact you when these items become in scope. We have a new process for recording temporarily excluded items, you will be receiving an email shortly with a link to an exclusion form. Please fill out the form for the requested items only.

Multiple Items

Hi,

These items are out of scope at this time. RFID solutions for these products are under development and we will contact you when these items become in scope. We have a new process for recording temporarily excluded items, you will be receiving an email shortly with a link to an exclusion form. Please fill out the form for each individual item type and only for the requested items.

Notes

Steps to send the exclusion form link:

- Copy the supplier's email address.
- Navigate to the "Exclusion" page in the ALEC Validation website.
- Paste the email into the "Contact Email" field.
- Hit "Submit"

ALEC Validation Results

Validation Fail

Failure Reason	Message
Encoding Issue	
Tags Are Not of Same Type	Some of the tags sent are not of the same type as the others, please work with you packaging provider to correct this.
Incorrect Filter Value	These tags were encoded to the incorrect filter value, they should have a filter value of 1.
EPC Not Locked	The tags sent were not permalocked, please work with you packaging provider to correct this.
UPC/EPC Mismatch	One or more of the tags sent is not encoded to the correct UPC, please work with your packaging provider to correct this.
Tag Header Value Do Not Exist	One or more of the tags sent is not encoded to an EPC, please work with your packaging provider to correct this.
Tagging Location Issue	
Tag On Bottom of Packaging	The tag cannot be on the bottom of the packaging, please move the tag and send updated photos to this email.
Tag Not Offset from RFID Blocking Material	Please move the tag so that it is offset from the {material} in the product/packaging and send updated photos to this email.
Tag to Close to Bottom of Packaging	Please move the tag up on the packaging so it is not in close proximity to the metal shelving in-store and send updated photos to this email.
Tag Not Fully Secured	The tag overhangs the edge of the packaging. Please adjust the tagging location to avoid losing or damaging the tag and send updated photos to this email.
Insufficient Information	
No Tagging Location Photo	The submitted photos did not represent a clear tagging location. Please send photos to this email that clearly display the RFID tagging location.
Merchandising Information Needed	Please send photos of how this item is displayed in-store?
Item File Issues	
Incorrect Item File	The correct item file format was not used, please fill out the item file linked in the submission form and send it to this email.
Inconsistent Item File	Some of the items in the item file did not have consistent tagging locations/packaging types. Please separate these items into separate submission and resubmit.
Other	
No Visible EPC Logo	There is not a visible EPC logo on the outside of the product/packaging, please send updated photos with a visible EPC logo to this email.
Tag Damage	One or more of the tags sent were damaged and could not be validated, please resubmit with 5 new tag samples

Tag Placement Resources

Tagging Guideline

https://rfid.auburn.edu/tagging-location-guide/

Tag Placement Guidelines

- The RFID tag should be offset from any metal, foil, liquid and glass in the product or packaging.
- The RFID tag cannot be on the bottom of the box when the item is displayed on a shelf in-store.
  - How an item is merchandised in-store is key to determining tag placement.
- The RFID tag should not be on the bottom of the side of the packaging if the item is displayed on a metal shelf. The top half of the packaging/item is preferred but as long as it more than a tags distance from the bottom edge it is fine.

ALEC Submission Grouping Requirements

Not all UPCs supplied by a supplier requires a validation, select one representative UPC (SKU) per:
-Product Supplier
-Brand
-Packaging Type
-Packaging Provider
-RFID Inlay Model
-Tagging Location

Items with the same product supplier, brand, packaging type, packaging provider, inlay model, and tagging location can be submitted together.

Walmart Display Item Guidelines

- The product needs to be tagged.
- Choose a location such that the tag won't touch metal when packaged or assembled for display.
- Make sure the tag isn't enclosed by metal when packaged or displayed.

GS1

EPC Encoding for Products

https://www.gs1us.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=389

Encoder/Decoder

https://www.gs1.org/services/epc-encoderdecoder

Retailer Information

Walmart Canada

Walmart US approvals can be used for Walmart Canada. The supplier must have a record of their approval and what it was for (product supplier, brand, packaging type, packaging provider, inlay model, and tagging location). If they cannot find any record of the approval, then they must resubmit for Walmart Canada.

BJ's

BJ's does not require submissions. They just put the program together to enable confidence for their suppliers who are tagging. You don't need to be certified for BJ's, however, you do need to make sure you are meeting BJ's requirements outlined in their playbook. If you have passed ALEC for Walmart, you should have confidence in your ability to tag correctly, as long as you comply with playbook requirements.

Nordstrom

Please look at the Nordstrom RFID playbook to find more information on starting the process.

Please fill out the submission form linked below. Your answers will prompt further instructions. https://rfidlab.org/nordstrom/

RFID Requirements Applicability

Nordstrom requires RFID-ticketed product for all product channels: Nordstrom, Nordstrom Rack, nordstrom.com, nordstromrack.com and drop ship.

Drop Ship Suppliers: Drop ship products sold after **April 1, 2024** must be RFID-ticketed.

While our long-term goal is to implement RFID-encoded tickets across all product types and categories, we currently only require RFID tickets on product types and categories that have been tested and confirmed reliable in the retail environment. It is possible that the RFID-ticketing requirement will expand to new product types and categories as RFID technology improves and further testing is completed. The following tables define the current scope of Nordstrom's RFID requirement.

Table A identifies product types and categories that require RFID tickets, as well as the preferred inlay specification for those products. **Table B** identifies product types and categories for which an inlay specification has not yet been determined. Products in these categories are not currently subject to Nordstrom's RFID ticketing requirements.

Table A: RFID Required Product Types & Categories, and Associated Inlay Specifications

Apparel: Women's, Men's & Kid's	Tag Spec.	Baby Gear	Tag Spec.	Home & Gifts (cont.)	Tag Spec.
Activewear	Spec G	Baby Carriers	Spec F	Bar Accessories	Spec F
Bras	Spec G	Bath & Potty	Spec F	Bath Accessories	Spec F
Coats, Jackets, Blazers, Sport Coats	Spec G	Blankes & Swaddles	Spec F	Candles & Diffusers	Spec F
Dress Shirts	Spec G	Car Seats	Spec F	Cookware & Bakeware	Spec F
Dresses	Spec G	Diaper Bags	Spec F	Desk Accessories &^ Stationary	Spec F
Hosiery & Shapewear	Spec G	Feeding	Spec F	Dinnerware & Glassware	Spec F
Jeans & Denim	Spec G	High Chairs	Spec F	Faux Flowers & Plants	Spec F
Jumpers & Rompers	Spec G	Nursery Furniture & Décor	Spec F	Flatware & Utensils	Spec F
Leggings	Spec G	Strollers	Spec F	Home Improvement Tools	Spec F
Pants	Spec G	Toys	Spec F	Lighting & Lamps	Spec F
Shearling / Fur	Spec G	**Home & Gifts**	**Tag Spec.**	Mattresses	Spec F
Shorts	Spec G	Bedding Sets	Spec F	Picture Frames	Spec F
Skirts	Spec G	Blankets, Throws & Pillows	Spec F	Tabletop & Kitchen	Spec F
Sleepwear, Pajamas, Lounge, Robes	Spec G	Books	Spec F	Window Coverings	Spec F
Socks	Spec G	Candy	Spec F	Window Hardware	Spec F
Suits	Spec G	Coffee/Tea	Spec F	**Cosmetics & Grooming**	**Tag Spec.**
Sweaters	Spec G	Comforters & Quilts	Spec F	Hair Tools	Spec F
Sweatshirts & Hoodies	Spec G	Duvet Covers & Shams	Spec F	**Shoes*: Women's, Men's & Kid's**	**Tag Spec.**
Swimwear & Cover-ups	Spec G	Nursery Furniture & Décor	Spec F	Boots	Spec F
Tops & Shirts	Spec G	Strollers	Spec F	Cleats	Spec F
Underwear	Spec G	Toys	Spec F	Clogs	Spec F
Accessories	**Tag Spec.**	**Home & Gifts**	**Tag Spec.**	Espadrilles	Spec F
Backpacks	Spec F	Bedding Sets	Spec F	Flats	Spec F
Belts	Spec F	Blankets, Throws & Pillows	Spec F	Flip Flops	Spec F
Clutch	Spec F	Books	Spec F	Heels	Spec F
Duffle Bags	Spec F	Candy	Spec F	Lace Ups	Spec F
Eyewear	Spec F	Coffee/Tea	Spec F	Loafers	Spec F
Golves & Mittens	Spec F	Comforters & Quilts	Spec F	Mules & Slides	Spec F
Handbags	Spec F	Duvet Covers & Shams	Spec F	Oxfords	Spec F
Hats	Spec F	Furniture	Spec F	Pumps	Spec F
Headphones	Spec F	Headphones	Spec F	Running, Sneakers & Athletic	Spec F
Luggage & Travel	Spec F	Rugs & Mats	Spec F	Sandals	Spec F
Phone Cases	Spec F	Serveware	Spec F	Slip Ons	Spec F
Pocket Squares	Spec F	Sheets & Bed Skirts	Spec F	Slippers	Spec F
Scarves & Wraps	Spec F	Small Electronics	Spec F	Wedges	Spec F
Suspenders	Spec F	Speakers & Home Audio	Spec F		
Ties	Spec F	Towels	Spec F	* RACK SHOES DO NOT REQUIRE RFID	
Umbrellas	Spec F	Appliances	Spec F		
Wallets	Spec F	Art, Walll Décor & Mirrors	Spec F		

Approved inlay lists are publicly available from Auburn University and may be found **here** for **SPEC F** and **here** for **SPEC G**

*The RFID Ticketing requirement that was communicated for **Rack Shoes** outlines RFID-encoding specifications only for suppliers who are already applying tickets to Rack Shoes; there is *no new requirement* for brands who aren't currently applying Rack Shoe tickets. Nordstrom will communicate additional details about the complete scope and applicability of RFID Ticketing to Rack Shoes, when available.

Table B: Product Not Currently Requiring RFID Tickets

Accessories	Tag Spec.	Cosmetics & Grooming (cont.)	Tag Spec.
Hair Accessories	TBD	Mascara	TBD
Cosmetics & Grooming	**Tag Spec.**	Shaving Cream	TBD
Eye Shadow	TBD	Sunscreen	TBD
Eyebrow / Eyeliner	TBD	Supplements	TBD
Face Serum	TBD	**Jewelry**	**Tag Spec.**
Facial Moisturizer	TBD	Bracelets	TBD
Foundationn / Powder / Concealer	TBD	Brooches / Pins	TBD
Fragrance	TBD	Charms	TBD
Lashes	TBD	Cuff Links	TBD
Lip Balm	TBD	Earrings	TBD
Lip Color	TBD	Necklaces	TBD
Lip Gloss	TBD	Rings	TBD
Lip Liner	TBD	Watches	TBD
Liquid Fragrance Diffusers	TBD	Watch Straps	TBD

General Links

Packaging Provider List

https://rfidpackagingresources.org/

Walmart Spec Page

https://rfidlab.org/arc/WalmartSpec/

Inlay Manufacturer Lists

https://rfidlab.org/inlaycontacts/

Quick Base Submission Form

https://rfidlab.org/Walmartalecform/

Quick Base Submission Guide

https://rfidlab.org/wp-content/uploads/Auburn-RFID-Submission-Guide.pdf

Q&A Link

http://aub.ie/rfidlabqa

Contact Information

General Contact Form

https://rfidlab.org/aleccontactform/

Walmart Contact Form

https://rfidlab.org/walmartcontact/

ALEC Contact Email

ALEC@rfidlab.org

Walmart Contact Email

WalmartRFID@walmart.com

Walmart Canada Contact Email

CA_RFIDpackaging@walmart.com

Walmart Mexico Contact Email

Walmart_MX_RFID@wal-mart.com

Sam's Club Mexico Contact Email

Sams_MX_RFID@wal-mart.com

Nordstrom Contact Email

frm@nordstrom.com

Dicks Sporting Goods Contact Email

RFIDDSG@dcsg.com