

2023 / RFID Tracking Business Report

RFID in AV.

Is this technology going to help my business overcome my most frustrating warehouse challenges?

The AV industry is a rapidly growing sector, especially after the pandemic repercussions cooled down and events are starting to get back to normal. However, the AV industry also faces a number of challenges, including projects carried out differently than planned, making sure all items are checked when they get back and making sure all items are marked available again on time. For example:



45,5%* of projects are **carried out** differently than initially planned, as hundreds of extra items are added before the trailer leaves.



65,5%* of returned items are marked as delayed, mostly because staff forgets to update their position when they get back.

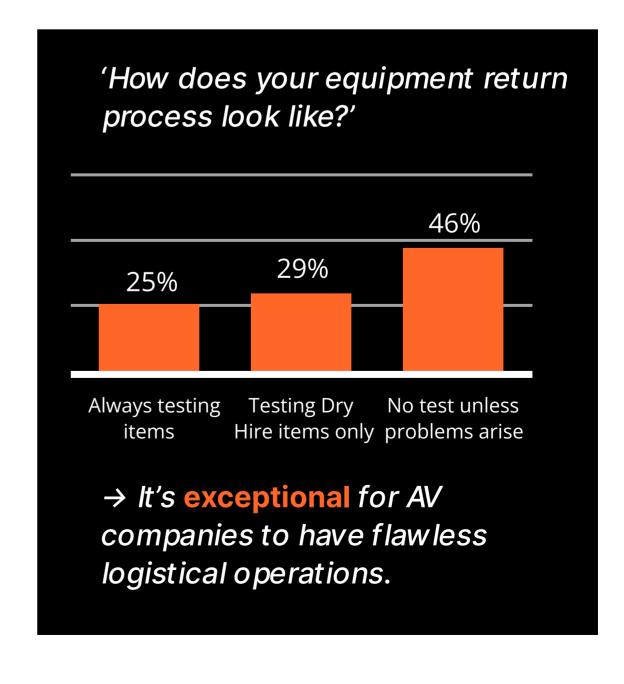
Traditionally, AV companies have tried to tackle these challenges using manual equipment tracking methods, such as QR-barcode tracking, or even spreadsheets. However, these methods are time-consuming and error-prone.

These practices may result in:

- → on-site stress & major delays
- → significant stock differences
- damaged credibility & reputation

In this report, we will discuss how a modern tracking solution can tackle these challenges: RFID.

* Sample is based on project statistics from Rentman users in 2022









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RFID tracking is a popular technology that has been around inventory management and tracking for some time now. Short for Radio Frequency Identification, with this technology, one can instantly scan multiple items, without being in line-of-sight. Read more about the principles behind RFID here.

The AV industry is known to handle large volumes of inventory, which can imply that RFID can be an optimal solution as well, just as for other industries. However, RFID thrives in standardized and streamlined production environments. How will it fare in an industry where the nature of inventory fluctuates from one week to another? Follow the report to find out more about how to make the most out of RFID for your AV business, and you will decide: Is RFID a temporary hype, or is it the 'real deal'?

RFID saves time. A lot of it.

It's no secret that one of the main benefits of this technology is saving time. We did some tests ourselves: we grabbed some light fixtures and some cables, and we scanned them using both QR tracking and RFID tracking.

Using QR Tracking

With QR tracking, we had to take each item from the shelf and individually scan them using our readers. Besides scanning the actual QR labels, it also took some time to locate them, as they could be placed in different locations.

Using RFID Tracking

With RFID tracking, if all items have RFID tags attached, all we had to do was take the items from the shelf and place them in the meatrack / flight case. Once everything was inside, we scanned everything instantly with an RFID reader.

Here are the results of our scanning test:

Example 1:

Scan 36 light fixtures in a meatrack

QR codes 30 seconds

3 seconds RFID tags

Example 2:

Scan 70 cables in a flight case

2 minutes QR codes

→ 10 seconds RFID tags



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However, time is not the only benefit of RFID. This technology also helps you:

Improve accuracy

Manually processing hundreds of items per week can lead to human errors. With an RFID system in place, you won't have to manually scan every piece of equipment. Simply pack everything up and scan everything using your reader.

For example, you need 50 cables for a project, but you only packed 49 by mistake, the reader will automatically signal that there's a missing item.

Improve traceability

Serializing / tagging all your equipment is a serious project in itself. However, once done, it will improve equipment traceability. You will be able to understand where items come from once they return from various jobs.

Compared to QR tracking, RFID allows you to return items in bulk and instantly signals which projects returned complete and which didn't.



Ok, RFID sounds intriguing. However, nothing is perfect. As with many new solutions in the market, there are some drawbacks that have to be taken into consideration:

High investment costs

Investing in any new technology can significantly influence business expenditure. RFID tracking is no small feature, making it expensive for some AV companies.

Expect to invest thousands of dollars if you have any plans to implement RFID in your daily operations. For more information about potential investment costs, visit page 8.

Errors happen in certain situations

Achieving the dream warehouse continues to be a dream for most AV companies. Let's face it, we just don't have time to make sure our warehouses have optimal shelf configuration.

Because of this, there are situations when RFID readers can get confused because there are too many tags around. To avoid this, we recommend setting up a dedicated RFID zone, which should be away from your shelves.

Note! These examples are <u>not</u> just purely theoretical. They have been developed based on real-life cases, which will be showcased later on.







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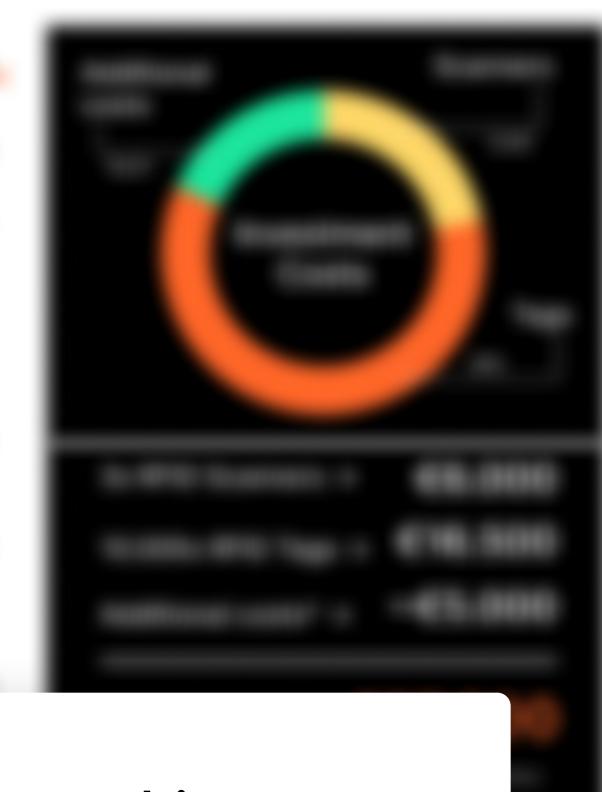
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