



EPCglobal Hardware Certification Program

What is the EPCglobal Hardware Certification Program?

The EPCglobal Hardware Certification Program is a standards-based compliance testing program, developed by the EPCglobal community to provide a neutral and authoritative source for testing hardware products and providing information regarding certified products, and the vendors who manufacture them. The purpose of this program is to enable end-users to easily access reliable information regarding EPC hardware (RFID silicon chips, readers, reader modules, and printer/encoders with embedded reader modules) and have confidence that the hardware products which they implement, will work in predictable ways as defined by EPCglobal Standards, such as the UHF Gen 2 Air Interface Protocol Standard.

What business problem does it solve?

Choosing the right EPC/RFID hardware for your business can be a challenging process, with many factors to consider (e.g. price, installation, performance). Companies need confidence that the hardware that they are considering for implementation is compliant with EPCglobal Standards.

By providing assurance of the compliance of EPC/RFID hardware products, this program helps facilitate and accelerate the start-up phase of implementations, allowing users to focus their resources on completing pilots and capturing EPC/RFID information in real business situations rather than on evaluating hardware components.

What products does it include?

The EPCglobal Hardware Certification Program will initially encompass EPC/RFID hardware products such as silicon chips, readers, reader modules, and printers/encoders with embedded reader modules. At this point in time, tags and printers/encoders with 3rd party readers are not part of the Hardware Certification Program.

Why aren't tags and printer/encoders being certified?

Tags and printer/encoders use components (e.g. integrated circuits (ICs) and reader modules respectively) that use the UHF Gen 2 Air interface protocol, but the tags and printer/encoders themselves have no additional functionality that make use of the protocol. Tags and printer/encoders will be included in interoperability testing (the next phase of the EPCglobal Hardware Certification Program).

What are the benefits?

Hardware carrying the EPCglobal Hardware Certification Mark has been rigorously tested by an independent laboratory and is certified to comply with EPCglobal Standards, thus assuring that the Certified Hardware will work predictably in a pilot or implementation.

How do I recognize which EPC/RFID hardware has been certified?

Products that have been certified by EPCglobal will bear the EPCglobal Hardware Certification Mark. Each EPCglobal Hardware Certification Mark is assigned to a specific hardware product and includes an 18-digit Global Service Relation Number (GSRN) that is unique to that product and the exact test that it successfully completed. This certification mark is your proof that a hardware product has been certified by EPCglobal.

How can I find the most up-to-date listing of Certified Hardware Products?

EPCglobal Subscribers can find a listing of EPCglobal Certified Hardware products at www.epcglobalinc.org/certification. As more products are certified, you should see the EPCglobal Hardware Certification Mark appearing on the websites and marketing materials of the Solution Providers whose EPC/RFID hardware products have been certified.

What about interoperability?

Hardware interoperability testing demonstrates the ability of different tags to work with different readers or printer/encoders. EPCglobal Inc™ will have interoperability testing in the near future and will grant an EPCglobal Interoperability Testing Mark for those devices that successfully complete testing. All devices participating in EPCglobal Hardware Interoperability Testing will have to incorporate a Certified IC or a reader module that has already passed EPCglobal Hardware Certification testing.



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For more information visit www.epcglobalinc.org/certification