

tex.ident®

The intelligent laundry identification system

Containers are indispensable appliances of transport in laundries. Efficient container management is necessary for inventory control and is an indispensable tool in laundry operations.

It is often apparent how the cost factor plays a major role in laundries. It is quite often the case that containers have to be replaced, due to the containers that seem to go missing. Without identification and the corresponding retracing ability, it is almost impossible to distinguish if a container is seriously damaged and therefore if it was sorted out, or whether it was returned to the client or not. At some point, this is bound to cause confusion as well as unnecessary investments by the additional purchases required. A laundry container usually costs between € 120 and € 350, which adds up to a total annual cost of several ten thousand euros.



To redress these drawbacks, suitable solutions have to be employed for the individual retracing of the containers. Container identification using barcode has been occasionally applied in the practical working environment; it is however questionable as to whether the reliability of the identification can be guaranteed due to the soiling or mechanical breakdowns of the barcode labels that could occur during the rough and robust conditions that take place in a regular laundry operation.

To be able to track the whereabouts of each single con-

Container Management



tainer efficiently and securely, an RFID-based container management system like that of GERA-IDENT can be employed.

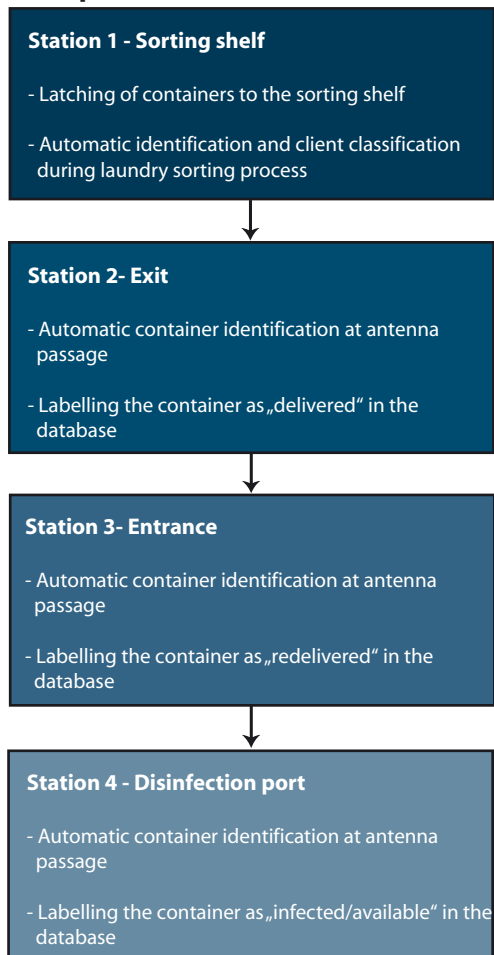
Each container is equipped with a transponder which is automatically identified at particular reading stations (such as at the entrance, the exit, the sorting shelf, and the disinfection ports), which is made possible due to the fact that direct visual contact between the code and the reader is not necessary as in the case with barcode.

Mobile solutions are possible too, such as the transfers of empty containers from one client to the next during a tour.



The container management system was designed to be flexible, to cater to the needs of laundry operations that each have individual working processes. The procedure at which the identification as well as the selection of the appropriate readers takes place has to be carried out individually. The following examples demonstrate the different tracking possibilities:

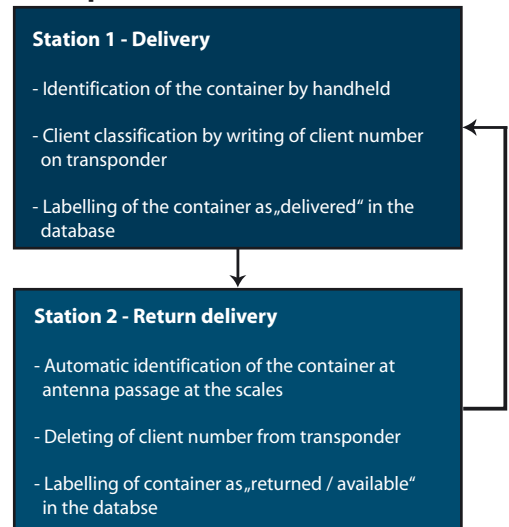
Example 1



The advantages of the RFID-supported container administration system:

- Permanent overview of all overdue container returns

Example 2



- “History“ of each single container (clients, deliveries) is registered
- A more reliable control of inventories
- Amount of space required during the return of delivery phases is not jeopardised
- Saving on investments for new containers
- Additional sources of revenue due to the introduction of possible leasing charges
- Controlling of life cycles of every container
- A higher hygiene level due to the exact controlling of disinfections during container identification at the ports

The container management system as well as the identification of laundry using RFID and/or barcode and the sorting shelf activation are all elements of the identification system tex.ident® from GERA-IDENT GmbH.