

Improving Outcomes Strategic Technology Solutions

What To Expect During an RFID Site Survey



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Overview

Successful RFID implementations demand expertise, meticulous planning, and comprehensive knowledge of a client's operations and facility. At RMS Omega, we believe that a thorough onsite survey and analysis by our RFID engineering team is essential for ensuring success and maximizing the ROI of your project.

This document outlines the activities that will occur before, during, and after a site visit, as well as the necessary interactions we need to have with your facility and personnel.

Online Discovery Meeting

Before scheduling an onsite visit, we will arrange one or more Online Discovery meetings between your team and various RMS Omega resources. The purpose of these meetings is to introduce you to our technical resource team and identify the overall requirements and goals of your project.

During these meetings, we may request some basic information about the items or products you expect to track, the general size and layout of your facility, and other key factors that may affect RFID performance. We may also ask for a facility layout drawing or floor plan, to help us prepare for the onsite visit.

If you would like us to engage in a mutual NDA before sharing any confidential information, please let us know during this phase.

If your facility requires any special safety clothing or other special gear that you cannot provide onsite, please inform us now so that we may be prepared when we arrive.

Based on the information gathered during these meetings, RMS Omega will provide a quotation for the cost of the onsite RFID Site Survey and proceed with scheduling the visit. Our engineer will arrive at your location on the agreed date and time. The first action item will be a brief meeting at your site to introduce you and your resources to our engineer and review the day's schedule of activities.

We will work diligently to minimize any interference with your ongoing work or production. However, we may need access to work areas during normal operations to observe workflows and equipment usage.

Below is a list of key personnel we may need to interact with during our visit:

- **Project Sponsor:** Provides a comprehensive project overview.
- Facility Manager: Provides facility access, security, and safety equipment.
- Operations Manager: Conducts a tour and explanation of the facility and workflows.
- IT/Network Manager: Answers network-related questions, including Wi-Fi and hardwiring.
- Maintenance/ Construction Manager: Answers questions related to equipment installation.
- Others: As needed.

At the conclusion of the initial onsite meeting, a tour of the facility will be conducted. Our engineer will take notes and photographs of various areas and operations as required to adequately document the facility and its workflow.



Facility Tour

Our engineer will conduct a facility tour accompanied by a customer representative. During this tour, detailed notes about the facility layout will be documented, including measurements of distances, identifying locations for read points, and product flow.

Questions will be asked of various personnel throughout the tour to determine specific operational requirements and product touch points.

If fixed readers are recommended for the project, locations for hardwire network connection points, including Power Over Ethernet (POE), will be determined. Where POE is not available, locations for AC power receptacles will be documented.

When handheld readers are used, wireless network coverage and access point (AP) locations will be documented.

For conveyor systems, dimensions, speed of conveyance, and suggested read points for RFID tunnels will be determined and documented.

Any requirements for integration with existing equipment or systems will also be noted and documented.

RFID Testing

Our engineer will bring various pieces of RFID equipment and tag samples to test RFID readability of tags on the items that need to be tracked by the system. We will also determine the best type of equipment to use for the application.

This equipment may include handheld readers, fixed RFID readers, antennas, portals or other RF measurement devices.

Tag samples may include hard tags, labels, on-metal tags or others based on information gathered during our initial online meetings regarding your project.

We will need access to samples of your products or inventory that are subject to being tracked by the system. We will temporarily affix tags to your items that can be removed at the conclusion of testing.

The results of all testing conducted will be made available in the RFID Survey Report that you will receive about a week after the onsite visit is completed.



Software/PLC Integration Requirements

If software or PLC integration is part of the project, we will gather and document information about the customer's existing systems. This includes noting the software process flow, security requirements, and data throughput. We will request a demonstration of the existing platform and any information regarding APIs and special data interfaces such as MQTT.

In most cases, software development and requirements gathering are considered separate from the RFID Site Survey. Information is requested only to determine its effect on hardware selection and overall system design.

Onsite Wrap Up Meeting

At the conclusion of the onsite visit, a brief meeting will be held with the stakeholders to discuss the overall findings of the testing and survey.

Any open items or additional follow-un action items will be considered and documented at this time.

If it is determined that additional testing may be required, we may request that some sample items be returned with our engineer for further evaluation back at our laboratory.

RFID Site Assessment Analysis and Report

After the onsite survey is complete and our engineer returns to our office, the RMS Omega RFID technical team will review the details of the findings discovered during the visit. After analyzing this information, we will provide an accurate report and analysis and deliver a detailed solution for your project.

This report will contain photos, drawings, test data, and more to substantiate our recommendations.

The result of this report will allow us to create an accurate quotation and Statement of Work required to accomplish your project goals and provide you with the information necessary to determine the best path forward.

We look forward to working with you and your team to provide the best RFID solution for your needs.