

ATF Leverages Sunflower Assets RFID Capability to Simplify Building Move

Performing physical inventories and tracking assets as they move from one location to another can be costly and time consuming tasks. Many organizations have successfully implemented integrated bar code scanning solutions like Sunflower MobileTrak™ to reduce the time, cost and level of effort needed to manage moveable property. However, bar code scanning may not be enough when your organization needs to account for a large amount of property in the least amount of time. Physical inventories and building moves can slow to a crawl if each asset needs to be individually scanned. High volume scenarios like these are best served by implementing an integrated Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology solution.

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) was able to leverage the convenience of RFID and the power of Sunflower Assets™ to easily account for Bureau property during a building move. The Bureau needed to consolidate 1,800 assets from three different office locations to its new headquarters building in Washington, D.C. A small passive RFID tag was affixed to each asset prior to the move. A baseline of these asset records was created in Sunflower Assets™. RFID readers were set up on each building's loading dock to scan the tags as each asset was placed into the moving truck. Readers were also in place on the loading dock of the new headquarters building, and each asset was scanned again as it was moved into the building.

Sunflower Assets™ compared the outgoing and incoming RFID reads against the baseline of records established prior to the move. Both RFID reads were also captured in the perpetual history record of each asset for audit purposes. ATF property managers were able to easily run Sunflower Assets™ reports to identify any asset that did not have an outgoing or incoming RFID read and take action to resolve these discrepancies.

ATF was able to make asset accountability a natural outcome of physically moving property from one building to another by using RFID and Sunflower Assets™. The Bureau was able to avoid the hassles, delays and resource requirements that they would have encountered had they tried to accomplish this task with barcode scanners. In fact, the building move experience was so successful that the Bureau now plans to use RFID and Sunflower Assets™ to track the movement of firearms around its Martinsburg, West Virginia weapons facility.