

London, 3rd March 2006

Dear Colleague

Joint Automotive Industry Statement on EPC

Please find attached a statement on the position which the automotive industry in Europe, North America and Japan has taken with regard to the use of EPC in automotive RFID applications.

This statement has the support of JAMA/JAPIA in Japan, AIAG and STAR in the USA and was approved on 2nd March 2006 by the Odette Logistics Functional Committee, which represents the European industry interests.

We are collectively not prepared to recommend the usage of EPC or give any endorsement to it and will always work towards open standards.

This statement is being sent to EPC Global, the European Commission (IS Directorate) and to selected Journals. I would encourage you to pass it on to whomever you feel should read it within your companies or organisations, and this certainly should include your national GS1 bodies.

I believe this makes our position very clear and should serve as a useful reference for any automotive company who is unsure what to do about EPC.

I should like to thank the many people who have been involved in this process and for the overwhelming support that it has received.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Carvin".

John Carvin
Managing Director

Joint Automotive Industry statement on EPC

This statement is made by a group of automotive associations working together as a global group - the Joint Automotive Industry, JAI*.

EPC organisations have approached us and suggested a closer relation between JAI and EPC.

With this statement we want to clarify our interest in relation to EPC.

JAI and EPC have a strong common interest in promoting implementation of RFID. We will probably be able to speed up implementation of RFID by taking joint actions such as:

- promoting global harmonisation of frequencies and other legal requirements
- acting together on establishing certification schemes for ISO compliance of RFID tags and readers

While pointing at our common interest we also need to be aware of the differences between our business sectors. Even if there is some overlap it is obvious that there are major differences in healthcare, consumer retail and distribution business processes compared to the automotive environment. These have been known for some time and can easily be identified when looking at today's B2B solutions for labelling, usage of bar-coding, EDI messages, etc. RFID data should build on the data structures currently in place, not require new structures to be created.

From a JAI perspective we are not prepared to recommend usage of EPC, or to give a preferred partner status to EPC within the automotive environment.

We believe that JAI and EPC instead could act in *parallel* within our user communities. This possibility has already been defined in the ISO RFID standards, with their support for multi-sector RFID applications. With the recently proposed solution for the new version of the AIAG B11 standard there is now also an opportunity to address situations that have overlapping business requirements, (e.g. open automotive aftermarket)

It remains to be seen whether the B11 solution will be widely embraced by EPCglobal.

Our intention is to work on guidelines for open RFID applications within the automotive industry, with the possibility of handling multi-sector requirements.

* JAI is a joint initiative within the global automotive industry, the members in JAI are:

AIAG, Automotive Industry Action Group
JAMA, Japan Automotive Manufacturers Association Inc.
JAPIA, Japan Auto Parts Industries Association
Odette International Ltd.
STAR – Standards for Technology in Automotive Retail.