

# Labelling standard holding contractors to account

AS THE ROLLOUT of unique identification barcode labelling across the Australian Defence Force (ADF) continues, prime contractors and their supply chains are becoming increasingly aware of the need to be compliant with the Australian Defence Standard governing automatic identification technology (AIT) labelling and marking.

The purpose of DEF(AUST)1000C (specifically Part 12) is to standardise the application of AIT labelling and marking to Defence packaging and materiel, and specifically bar codes and radio frequency identification.

DEF(AUST)1000C requires that assets supplied by prime and sub-contractors have a permanent, globally-unique, unique item identifier (UII) prior to receipt. Failure to comply can result in shipment rejection and/or non-payment.

Assigning and marking each item with a UII allows the ADF to track and trace an unlimited amount of associated information such as configuration, maintenance history, address order number, contents, weight sender, serial batch or lot number.

The Australian Army currently has a project to mark existing items with a UII and is working with Joint Logistics Command and the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group to ensure all new supplied equipment and gear meets DEF(AUST)1000C.

The intent of the program is to improve asset management, facilitate more efficient accounting for stores and enable ready identification of common assets during joint and coalition operations. The program is being delivered alongside Chief Information Officer Group's Automated Data Capture for Unit project, which involves the provision of handheld barcode readers compatible with Army's inventory management technology known as the Military



**ABOVE: The labelling of all equipment with a unique identification barcode as per DEF(AUST)1000C is a requirement for all prime and sub-contractors supplying the ADF. Image: Camcode**

Integrated Logistics Information System (MILIS) and certified to operate wirelessly on the Defence Protected Network.

The fixing of barcode labels with unique identifiers onto equipment (that includes both human and machine-readable information) significantly improves the accuracy and speed of routine supply chain management tasks.

The most notable of these improvements is the ability to rapidly count serialised barcoded assets using barcode scanners, removing the need for

individual serial numbers to be read out and marked off during regular stocktakes. Instead, barcodes are scanned directly into MILIS, with discrepancies identified immediately. This typically reduces stocktake times from hours to minutes and is 100% accurate.

The program is supported by prime contractor Camcode Australia, a subsidiary of US company Camcode Global. Currently assisting Australian suppliers with DEF(AUST)1000C compliance, Melbourne-based Camcode designs, supplies and installs its special high-resolution MetalPhoto barcode labels now being seen on Army equipment. In Australia, Camcode is supported by engineering services company ECLIPS.

Globally, Camcode has supplied and installed UII barcode labels on more than three million assets across 1,000 NATO Stock Numbers in 15 countries to date and in operational theatres. **DTR**

**- Ian Bostock**