

Best Practice: Portable Bar Code Readers



Category:	Access control
Location First Observed:	Sembawang Shipyard, Singapore
Date First Observed:	June 2004
POC:	Port Facility Security Officer.

This is an example of a commercially available bar code scanner.

Description: Use of portable bar code reader to identify facility workers and validate employee identification cards.

Discussion: Security personnel using this system can verify the identity of all port employees and subcontractors wearing issued port access identification badges. The bar code on the identification badge also contains information concerning the areas to which the employees and contractors have been granted access.

Potential Down-side: Cost and durability

Conclusion: Port employees must use their identification card to gain access to the various work areas they are authorized. This first layer of access control is supplemented by the ability to randomly verify the identity and access permissions of all port employees and contractors through the use of a portable bar code reader. The use of bar codes and bar code scanners is an effective deterrent against the falsification of identification.

Cost: Prices vary based on function and brand. Portable bar code readers cost between \$500 - \$2,000 apiece. Required software costs between \$400 - \$1,000.