

Frequently Asked Questions

3M™ Connected Safety – Inspection & Asset Management System

July 2017

1. How does the 3M™ Inspection and Asset Management System (IAM) work?

The IAM system is a cloud-and mobile-based system that works in combination with certain Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Safety Equipment, and Areas with unique identification in the form of RFID tags and barcodes.

2. What is the basic minimum technology needed for the IAM system?

The following three key components are necessary to utilize the IAM system:

- PPE and Safety Equipment with integrated or retrofitted equipment ID tags (3M-supplied RFID tags)
- Mobile device capable of reading the RFID tags and barcodes along with the IAM system mobile app
- Web browser and Internet connectivity to access data

3. Is my cell phone or mobile device compatible with the IAM system?

The following mobile devices have been tested by 3M and found to be compatible with the IAM system. Other mobile devices with similar specifications may also work with the IAM system.

- Android devices (Unitech® PA700, Samsung® Galaxy S5–Primary device support)
- iOS devices (iPhone® 6, iPad® Air 2 along with the IDBlue® Reader)

4. What kind of web connectivity do I need to access the IAM system?

A web browser running on a computer connected to the Internet is necessary to access the IAM system. Google® Chrome (version 48+) and Internet Explorer (version 10+) web browsers have been tested, found to work well with the IAM system and are recommended by 3M. Periodic the Internet access either via Wi-Fi or cellular link for the mobile device to transfer data is also needed.

5. Who owns my data, who has access to my data and is my data secure?

You, the customer, own your data. Per the terms of the user agreement, 3M has the right to monitor and access the data to improve the IAM system and create new features or products. In addition to 3M, any user/employee authorized and permitted by the customer to use the IAM system has access to the data. Per the user agreement, 3M may also use the data for marketing or selling 3M products to the customer. 3M may de-identify customer data using standard industry practices. Please refer to the user agreement for further details. Although no data system can be 100% foolproof from third-party access (e.g., hackers), the IAM system is built with industry standard data management methods and security methods to safeguard the data.

6. Can I receive notifications from the system?

Yes, a notifications feature is built into the IAM system. It is user configurable and is based on a subscription model where a user can subscribe to only the notifications of interest.

7. Can I access the IAM system instructional documentation?

Only registered users of the IAM system have access to the IAM system instructional documentation. Upon successful login, please access the documentation via the help page.

8. I am a user of the IAM system for my company; how do I know what I can edit and what I can view within my company's configuration?

Certain edit features are restricted to a system administrator role (3M recommends limiting system admin role to one or two users). Please refer to Security Roles and Privileges matrix on the Help page.

9. How can I download the IAM system?

The IAM system mobile app is available for download at the following locations:

- Google® Play Store for Android (search for 3M Connected Safety – Inspection and Asset Management system)
- Apple® App store for iOS (search for 3M Connected Safety – Inspection and Asset Management system)

You will need a user account to access the mobile and web applications (login information is the same for both applications). In addition, as a security measure, the mobile device will need to be authorized by your company's IAM System Administrator for use with the IAM system.

10. Where do I put the RFID tag?

Locations have been identified for select 3M™ PPE and are described in the tagging kit user instructions. For use with other PPE or safety equipment, 3M as well as non-3M, consult with 3M Technical Services. **At no point should an RFID tag be placed in a manner that could lead to compromise of the safety function of the PPE.**

11. What are the options for RFID tagging of equipment?

The IAM system is designed and scoped for certain reusable PPE and other safety equipment.

12. Has the RFID tag attachment been tested for durability?

Yes, the tag uses a 3M™ VHB™ Adhesive to attach tags to PPE and other safety equipment. Both field testing and laboratory testing have been done to validate the durability of the tag attachment.

13. Can I put the RFID tag on non-3M safety equipment?

Yes, but it is not specified or tested for non-3M PPE. Consult with 3M Technical Services and the non-3M equipment manufacturer to help you determine an appropriate location for the tag on non-3M PPE.

14. Does the RFID tag affect NIOSH or other regulatory approvals for safety equipment?

No, for the 3M™ PPE included in the User Instructions, all locations have been selected to not interfere with the NIOSH approvals. General rules for tagging are

- avoid locations that affect functionality of the equipment
- do not cover or obscure warning labels, or any other markings such as model numbers
- locate the tag in an area that is as flat as possible and accessible to a reader.

Consult with the non-3M equipment manufacturer to confirm the regulatory acceptance of RFID tagging.

15. How do I know if the RFID tag is working?

If a tag can be commissioned and registers with a reader, it is working.

16. What do I do if the RFID tag comes off?

A new RFID tag can be attached to the PPE using the IAM system RFID Tag Kit. The IAM system mobile application supports a feature called “Replace a Tag” where a user can program the new tag with the full and complete history of a lost or removed RFID tag.

17. What do I do if I can't get a read off a RFID tag?

Read position and angle are affected by the type of mobile device and the position of the tag. Try repositioning the reader closer and more parallel to the RFID tag. Make sure the reader is adequately charged and functioning properly by testing it with an RFID tag that is known to work. Contact 3M Technical Service if the problem continues.

18. What do I do with the RFID tag if the safety equipment is ready to be discarded?

The IAM system mobile application supports a feature called “Decommission” that writes a permanent status of discard/out-of-service to an RFID tagged item. Discard the safety equipment in accordance with local regulations. The RFID can be disposed with the safety equipment without any special actions.

19. Will the RFID tag work if it is covered with dirt, grease and grime or paint?

Yes— though in most cases, the read range may be decreased somewhat.

20. Can the IAM system communicate with other HR or safety software systems?

Currently the IAM system software system is standalone and only supports minimal integration with other safety software systems via an API. Future releases of the software will look to improve this support. Please contact your IAM system support representative if you have specific needs.

21. Can I use barcodes and manual IDs with the IAM system?

Yes the IAM system will work with equipment identification via barcodes (most industry standard) and manual IDs (alpha-numeric). However, 3M recommends the use of RFID for safety-critical equipment. Barcodes and manual IDs (such as serial numbers) operate as “read only” systems and the responsibility lies with users to make sure they always sync their mobile device prior to interacting with the equipment and immediately following the transaction to prevent conflicts.



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