The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) is pleased to announce the development of a new standard that enhances the usability of readers in 2D bar code and other high capacity data applications. The new specification provides a standardized way for the scanner to output these control codes in a common XML format, so that an application can be the same for all readers. This feature will also allow customers greater flexibility to mix-and-match readers from different suppliers into their applications.

This international standard specifies a transfer structure, syntax, and coding of messages and data formats when using high-capacity ADC media, such as 2D bar codes. When shipping data is encoded in accordance with ISO 15434, it can include embedded “control” codes that are used as data field separators. The challenge today – without this standard - is that readers from different manufacturers can output these characters differently, so applications have to change to accommodate those differences.

The standard was crafted by an ad hoc committee of ANSI MH10 Subcommittee 8 (SC8). This group is responsible for maintenance of the material handling standards that specify the creation, placement, and data content of shipping labels. The ad hoc committee was comprised of members of AIDC equipment manufacturers, system integrators, and Government and commercial end users from the following companies: ATIS / Alcatel-Lucent; ATIS / Telcordia; CDO Technologies; DoD Logistics AIT Office; Intermec Technologies; Motorola; Northrop Grumman; Q.E.D Systems; and the USAF AIT Program Office.

According to Mark Reboulet, Program Manager for Air Force AIT and chairman of the ANSI MH10 Subcommittee 8 (SC8) committee, “This specification is a direct result of cooperation between manufacturers and system integrators, and demonstrates the standards process in action. The common data output format will simplify design for system integrators, and also allow users to choose the equipment that best fits their needs. It’s a win-win for the entire data collection industry.”