



## CASE STUDY:

# RFID-enabled Automatic Garment Dispenser in Hospitals



*LCT is a specialist in logistics automation for industrial laundries. Since 1984, LCT has been involved with integrating RFID technology and automatic garment dispensers. Recently, LCT has worked closely with TAGSYS and integrated its RFID tags and readers.*

*LCT has extensive knowledge in the manufacturing and installation of systems specific to the health industry. Their Chiptex Liner dispenser system operates rapidly and 24 hours a day. It is easy to use and has been installed in over 275 sites around the world. For more information, please contact: [info@lct.nl](mailto:info@lct.nl)*

### THE CLIENT

Group Hospitalier of the Catholic Institute of Lille (GHICL) employs 1200 people in two locations, 80% of whom wear hospital attire (scrubs). In all, over 6000 garments are managed and distributed to these staff members. GHICL was interested in automatic dispensers to improve work wear management and reduce losses. In addition, they wanted to combat the possibility of nosocomial infections by improving traceability via complete visibility over hospital garment flows.

### PROJECT SCOPE

Automatic dispensers allow medical personnel to have access to clean work wear 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Automatic dispensers also enable hospitals to develop economies of scale by reducing both garment rotation time and garment and uniform losses. Before improving their system, GHICL experienced garment losses at about 10% to 30% per year.

With improved garment traceability, the hospital can better control its compliance to hygiene standards by monitoring that its staff change their work wear on a regular basis and that these garments are appropriately washed.

### THE SOLUTION:

Group Hospitalier of Lille asked TAGSYS and LCT (specialists in logistics automation for laundries), to install an automatic dispenser system for folded garments, based on RFID technology.



TAGSYS develops comprehensive multi-band RFID infrastructure for item-level tracking. This universal infrastructure includes purpose-built readers and tags, as well as RFID management software, all designed to work together seamlessly, at the highest performance levels, in the most demanding environments. With a proven track record of delivering reliable production systems, TAGSYS has deployed over 100 million tags and 60,000 reader systems to over 500 customers in more than 40 countries. More information on TAGSYS can be found at [www.TAGSYSrfid.com](http://www.TAGSYSrfid.com).

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An RFID tag is patched onto the garment and contains a unique ID which is used to monitor the garment flows between the hospital and the laundry in a reliable and secure manner.

LCT's automatic dispensers integrate TAGSYS' RFID readers. Since they are the size of a closet, they can be installed within each service department of the hospital, in close proximity to where the staff is, 24/7.

#### HOW IT WORKS:

Each user has their own access card (badge) to identify themselves to the dispenser. Employee information such as name, size, service department, and function is identified by the system, which in return provides the employee with a suitable clean garment. A 2-piece garment is usually delivered within 20 seconds.

Soiled garments are returned through a return chute equipped with an RFID system, which automatically identifies garments before they are sent to the laundry.

#### THE RESULTS:

- Significant stock reduction, leading to lower garment renewal expenses.
- Tremendous responsiveness to personnel services with the availability of a garment dispenser 24/7.
- Employees accept moving from personalized garments to generic garments sorted by size, which is much easier to manage by the laundry and much more economical for the hospital.
- Total control over garment flows which, from a management perspective as well as from a quality perspective, enables true transparency in the traceability of garments from the laundry to the hospital, and within each facility.
- Better control over hygiene requirements.

#### CONCLUSION:

"Having used this new system for 8 months, the laundry staff seems perfectly at ease with it. Medical staff has also adopted the system. And executive management is already seeing gains in productivity," explains Pascal Bourgeois, head of the cleaning department at the GHICL

