

Verification Tool for 2-Dimensional Bar Codes Introduced by GS1 US

Test card for use with verifier devices to improve quality of all 2D bar code symbols. Project collaborators included AIM, Ohio University, and Pitney Bowes.

LAWRENCEVILLE, N.J. Responding to companies' increased adoption and implementation of GS1 DataMatrix and other two-dimensional (2D) bar codes, GS1 US™ announced the availability of a tool to help users calibrate and test their 2D verifiers, devices that analyze bar-code print quality and standards conformance.

The GS1 Data Matrix Calibrated Conformance Standard Test Card (CCSTC) is a reference standard that contains 2D bar code symbols of exact dimensional and reflectance values. It can be used to determine if a bar code verifier is accurate and operating within published tolerances. The new card complements an existing product line of GS1 US test cards for linear symbologies including UPC-A, EAN-13, ITF-14, GS1-128 and GS1 DataBar.

The CCSTC resulted from a multi-year project launched by GS1 US in conjunction with the Technical Symbology Committee of AIM, the Association for Automatic Identification and Mobility. The project included the development of the 2D Judge™, a unique, high-resolution system designed to precisely measure, analyze, and validate the reflectance and dimensional accuracy of the symbols on the test card.

The 2D Judge was built under the direction of Dr. Kevin Berisso, PhD, Director of the AutoID Lab at Ohio University, part of the Russ College of Engineering and Technology. Global mailstream technology leader Pitney Bowes leveraged its expertise in processing barcodes to develop the 2D Judge's image-analysis software and a symbology decoding algorithm based on ISO/IEC standards for Data Matrix.

A committee of industry experts supported the technical development of both the 2D Judge and the CCSTC, and included representatives from Axicon Auto ID, Intermec Technologies Corporation, Label Vision Systems, Inc., Northrop Grumman, Product Identification & Processing Systems, Inc., and Webscan, Inc.

The GS1 Data Matrix Calibrated Conformance Standard Test Card can be ordered from the GS1 US website at <https://productcatalog.gs1us.org>

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