

# American Port Services

## American Port Services Offers RFID Compliance to Key Customers With HighJump Software's Solutions

### Company Profile—APS

APS is a third-party logistics provider located in Savannah, Ga. The services that APS provides for its clients include all modes of transportation, distribution centers, yard management services, cross-docking facilities, export-packing capabilities, DC space, a company-owned truck fleet and world-class computer systems. APS currently manages more than four million square feet of warehouse space in Savannah, Charleston, S.C., Norfolk, Va. and Houston. Customers include major retailers, manufacturers and shippers that use APS as a sole-source logistical provider.

### Challenge

APS received a customer request to ship RFID-tagged cases to one of its retail customers to meet a compliance deadline. APS needed to find a robust but cost-effective RFID compliance solution to meet its customer's requirements and prepare for the future requests that would inevitably follow.

### Solution

APS contacted the vendor of its other supply chain execution solutions, HighJump Software, a 3M company. "Our customer turned to us for help becoming RFID compliant, so we turned to HighJump Software. It was a collaborative effort," said Jeff Meraz, MIS IT Lead for APS.



APS decided to implement HighJump's Compliance Advantage™ solution because of its unique flexibility, comprehensive distribution workflows and ability to provide low total cost of ownership over the long

term. Compliance Advantage would also be able to integrate seamlessly with APS' other HighJump solutions implemented at five APS fulfillment and distribution facilities. "We had already generated high customer satisfaction levels, measurable ROI and low total cost of ownership with HighJump's applications for warehouse management, yard management and management visibility. It made sense to keep our solutions in the same family," Meraz said.

APS worked with HighJump and several other technology and services vendors to get its entire RFID infrastructure up and running. This included making sure the software, tags, readers and various other components could operate as a cohesive system. "It was challenging at times," Meraz said. "The project got everybody talking together. The biggest benefit was that everyone became educated about how the process worked. Our knowledge base was always evolving. It still is."



APS implemented Compliance Advantage at its distribution center in Norfolk, Va., to manage RFID tag application for pallets and cases. The system creates scannable advance shipping notice (ASN) labels and sends detailed ASN data to alert retailers of a forthcoming shipment. Compliance Advantage features a high level of flexibility, empowering APS to easily configure specific processes to use RFID, bar codes or both, depending on each customer's unique requirements.

"The system has performed well as volumes have increased," Meraz said. "We continue to exchange the data in new ways, such as through EDI files. It's an evolving process." APS is currently working on transmitting information from electronic product codes (EPC) via EDI so customers can in turn transmit ASNs to their own customers.

The HighJump system separates RFID orders and directs pickers to process them separately from bar code orders. It makes sure each RFID label works properly before data can be embedded. The verified label is then placed on a case/pallet and shipped to the customer.

APS leverages the integration between Compliance Advantage and HighJump's Warehouse Advantage™ warehouse management system to give customers Web-based visibility to all orders, including RFID numbers. "This visibility to order status and EPC information has been a tremendous benefit to our customers," Meraz said.

APS updates its RFID infrastructure as new technology becomes available. It now uses the latest RFID labels and printers in its operations. "RFID is a changing technology that continues to evolve. The standards everyone tries to follow are just guidelines," Meraz said.

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Order Number	Pallet Lead ID	Box Number	Lot Number	EPC	Status	
1	550196	00125	00011312	4WW	9902A355A0000005	Complete
2	550196	00125	00011312	4WW	9902A355A0000006	Complete
3	550196	00125	00011312	4WW	9902A355A0000007	Complete
4	550196	00125	00011312	4WW	9902A355A0000008	Complete
5	550196	00125	00011312	4WW	9902A355A0000009	Complete
6	550196	00125	---PALLET---	---	9902A355A0000000	Complete
7	550197	00126	00011312	4WW	---	Incomplete
8	550197	00126	00012100	4293601	---	Incomplete
9	550197	00126	00013624	3TT	---	Incomplete
10	550197	00126	00035341	4114101	---	Incomplete
11	550197	00126	---PALLET---	---	---	Incomplete
12	550198	00127	00011312	4WW	---	Incomplete
13	550198	00127	00012100	4293601	---	Incomplete
14	550198	00127	00013624	3TT	---	Incomplete
15	550198	00127	00035341	4114101	---	Incomplete
16	550198	00127	00035341	4114101	---	Incomplete
17	550198	00127	00035341	4114101	---	Incomplete
18	550198	00127	---PALLET---	---	---	Incomplete

## Results

"The ability to offer RFID compliance is without a doubt a strong point in our value-added service offering. We're pleased to be able to offer it to our customers," Meraz said.

APS has also benefited from the ease of configuring Compliance Advantage in-house. "We've had requests to tweak labels. We're able to turn on a dime. opportunities by offering additional services to current and future customers. APS will leverage its HighJump solutions to expand its business to customers and grow its market presence in the world of logistics.

