

HelpSheet002.

Barcoding.



A barcode is a way of representing data in such a way that it can be read by a machine. The simplest barcodes are made up of a series of parallel vertical bars and spaces. These are called linear barcodes. The entire barcode is arranged in a line.

Barcodes must always start with a special character, called a Start Code and they must end with a Stop Code. The Start Code tells the barcode scanner to begin reading the barcode and tells it what kind of barcode is to be read. The Stop Code tells the barcode scanner that it has reached the end of the barcode.

There are a lot of different kinds of barcode, each with its own purpose. The most common are:

- UPC (Universal Product Code) a 12 character code used on retail products in the US.
- EAN (European Article Number) a fixed 13 digit numeric barcode used on retail products in Europe.

These are the standards generally for pre-labelled products and both have a specific structure required for the code to work successfully. They contain information relating to things such as country of origin, manufacturer and validation digits.

It is also possible to use Code 39 Barcodes to produce your own labels in house.

Code 39 barcodes are numeric barcodes with inbuilt validation characters (or check digits). This is represented by an * which will be created automatically when the label is produced.



When configuring your own barcodes we would recommend that you determine a 7 digit numbering system which does not need to be in any specific format other than numeric.

You also need to ensure that the labels you are producing are large enough to cater for a minimum space of 6.5mm either side of the label to allow for "white space". This is to ensure that the number can be read correctly, similarly you need to allow for the code to print under the barcode so that this



KCPOS

KCPOS Software Helpsheet

can be input if the barcode cannot be scanned.

All of the above barcode formats are supported by KC Modules, but please feel free to call us to discuss any queries you have further

Retail Support: 01724 400323 Email: retailsupport@hbpsystems.co.uk