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TAPPI Roll Number for inventory/tracking systems and bar codes

Scope

This Technical Information Paper is the result of the work of several working groups over the years, organized through TAPPI. The working groups' efforts have been focused on refining a paper and paperboard roll numbering system, commonly known as the "TAPPI Roll Number," which was initially developed for the North American paper industry in the fall of 1967 and then expanded in the fall of 1988 with the creation of this TAPPI TIP 1004-01. This is the second revision. See the Appendix for more details on the history.

This TIP applies to paper and paperboard rolls manufactured in the United States, Canada, and Mexico and is intended to provide guidelines to the manufacturers of paper and paperboard rolls for the identification of such paper and paperboard rolls. This numbering system, often referred to as the North American roll identifier, is based upon the last TAPPI roll number system with one field eliminated which enhances the usefulness of this new number system. Additionally we have added the use of the 128 bar code and consider converting to its use.

IDEAlliance came to TAPPI in October 2004 to work with their working group to review a Global Unit Identification Standard Development dated November 4, 2002. The Global Unit Identifier is 15 characters, with the first 4 being mill code, a 1-character item type and a 10-character core item identifier. A working group was formed and options developed to include meaningful manufacturing information in the 10-character core identifier. The final version was presented at the April 2005 TAPPI Shipping, Receiving, and Warehousing Committee meeting. The only comment received was that the proposed identifier is too long. If anything, the current North American Roll Identifier (NARI) should be shortened. This is what this new Roll Number accomplishes, eliminating one position while maintaining meaningful manufacturing information.

Definitions

- Reel:** The jumbo reel or log made on a paper machine from which rolls are cut. In Europe, the term "reel" is a synonym for the North American "roll."
- Set:** The sequence of cutting a group of rolls from the outer portion in from a reel. See Figure 2.
- Roll:** An individual unit of wound or re-wound paper or paperboard manufactured for use, as a raw material, in a converting or printing process.

Safety precautions

There are no known safety precautions associated with adoption or use of the TAPPI roll identifier as described in this Technical Information Paper.

TIP Category: Automatically Periodically Reviewed (Five-year review)

TAPPI roll identifier format

A 12-character identifier, using the following format, has been adopted:

<i>Position</i>	<i>Character*</i>	<i>Description</i>
1-2	A/N	Mill/site code
3	A/N	Machine code
4	Num	Year, last digit, 0-9
5	Alpha	Month, A-M, A = January through M = December (do not use the letter I, see explanation)
6-7	Num	Day of month, 01-31
8-9	A/N	Reel of day, 01-99 then; 100 - 109 = A0 - A9 110 - 119 = B0 - B9 120 - 129 = C0 - C9 and so on
10	A/N	Set number
11-12	Num	Roll position, in terms of percent from the leading edge of the reel (00-99)

*A/N = Alphanumeric, Alpha = Alphabetic characters only, Num = Numeric digits only

Figure 1 provides an example of the new North American roll identifier with each field identified and described.

*A/N = Alphanumeric, Alpha = Alphabetic characters only, Num = Numeric digits only

TAPPI ROLL NUMBER

Roll Number (example): L215A0102350

Interpretation of the above number is:

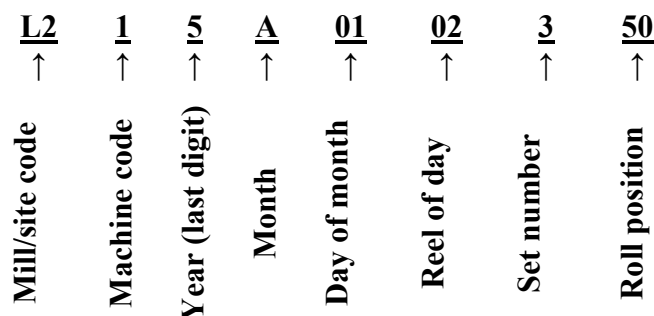


Figure 1. Example of TAPPI Roll Number

Figure 1 provides an example of the TAPPI Roll Number with each field identified and described.

A description of each field follows:

Mill/site code, positions 1 and 2. TAPPI will assign these codes revising the former AF&PA master list of codes. The working group recommended that TAPPI shall advise those companies utilizing 2 character codes, which represent individual mills, that these codes will be considered the mill/site code regardless of corporate ownership in the future. Those mills which currently use the first three characters to identify the corporate ownership and mill should phase out their use and implement a single assigned two-character mill/site code.

The working group also recommended discontinuing codes for warehouses and special use codes.

Machine code, position 3. Companies will assign a code for each paper machine in each mill. Companies should use numeric digits (value 0 through 9) for the first nine machines in a mill, and alphabetic characters, beginning with the letter A, if the mill has more than nine machines.

Year, position 4. The last digit of the year, value 0 through 9, is placed in this position. This allows for the possibility of roll numbers repeating each decade.

Month, position 5. Companies will use alphabetic codes A through M to signify month, as follows:

A = January	G = July
B = February	H = August
C = March	J = September
D = April	K = October
E = May	L = November
F = June	M = December

These codes are the same as those used in the original TAPPI roll identifier, published in 1967, for odd-numbered years (see Appendix).