MANAGING PBI TAG PLACEMENT AND AMS SAMPLE COUPONS

PBI Tag Placement

The default tag placement for row and block stacked bales is on the top half of the round (thin) side of a bale. Only one PBI tag per bale is allowed. PBI tags should always be secured to bales with an adhesive backed tag, a cotton cord or a nylon zip tie.

Safety Tag Placement

Properly placing PBI tags and safety tags is critically important. Most warehouses encourage gins to include one or more safety tags on each bale. The above graphic demonstrates the positions where most warehouses prefer placement of PBI and safety tags. Safety tags facilitate bale identification because storage and handling methods do not ensure that the same rounded sides of all bales are always displayed. However, if there is an identity question, the PBI tag takes precedence.

Unacceptable Practices

Do not place PBI tags on heads, feet or flat sides of bales. Additionally, placing PBI or other tags under bale bagging and against the cotton in a bale is not acceptable. Even when clear bagging is used, it is difficult to scan barcodes, particularly when warehouse crew members are attempting to maintain a safe working distance from stacked bales. In addition, some mills consider tags placed under bagging as a contaminant.

In 1994, the Joint Cotton Bale Packaging Committee "Eliminated use of hog rings, metal staples or other metal for securing or closing bale heads." Securing PBI or other tags to bale bags or ties using fine wire or metal fasteners is an objectionable practice.

The JCIBPC's "A Guide for Cotton Bale Standards"[1] indicates that wrinkled and mutilated PBI tags on a bale result in "Grade B" bales. If the PBI tag cannot be scanned, a bale may be rejected at a mill.

Matching PBI and safety tags should be on opposite sides of bales, not next to each other.

Avoid Mismatched PBI Tag and AMS Coupon

All gins are encouraged to invest in technologies and tag handling practices that catch mismatches before the bale and AMS sample leave the bagging area. When scanners and other practices are utilized, and all numbers are matched -- mismatches at gins, warehouses and classing offices go away!

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[1] http://www.cotton.org/tech/bale/upload/guide-cotton-bale-standards.pdf