

## The EPC Class Structure

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Press release from: [WOWGAO INC](#)

Toronto, ON, July, 2006 - The EPC Tag Class Structure is often misunderstood. 'Class' is not the same as 'Generation'. Class describes a tag's basic functionality for example whether it has memory or a battery. Generation refers to a tag specification's major release or version number. The full name for what is popularly called EPC Generation 2 is actually EPC Class 1 Generation 2, indicating that the specification refers to the second major release of a specification for a tag with write-once memory.

The full EPC Class Structure is:

Figure: EPC Class Structure

The Class 0 designation was added to the Generation 1 system long after the Class 1 specification was created, as part of the process described in 1.i above. Class 1 tags, of which 'Generation 2' is an example, contain a write once memory for storing an Electronic Product Code. Class 2 tags add additional memory that can be changed frequently, for storing additional data for example from an onboard sensor. Class 3 tags add batteries for longer read ranges and higher reliability, but are fundamentally passive backscatter tags. Class 4 tags are essentially active tags that can communicate with other Class 4 tags as well as readers. Class 5 tags are not really tags at all - they are essentially wireless networked readers.

High volume, general availability of Generation 2 tags is expected some time in this moment. However, Generation 1 tags will not disappear from the supply chain: instead Generations 1 and 2 will coexist for 6 to 12 months while the Generation 2 learning curve ramps up. Depending on Generation 2 price and performance, and market conditions, this 'Generation 1 Shadow' could last until early 2007, when Generation 1 tags finally disappear from the supply chain. Tag technology will continue to evolve; around the time Generation 2 becomes established around 2006/7, end users and technology vendors expect work to begin on developing a 'Generation 3' system with further improvements to Generation 2 technology.

Our company GAO RFID Inc. currently does not offer any GEN 2 tags yet, but as we can foresee GEN 2 tags will dominate the supply chain market. GEN 2 tags have the same potential as the active tags as the next generation of RFID technology. To learn more, please visit [www.gaorfid.com](http://www.gaorfid.com)

About GAO RFID Inc

GAO RFID Inc., a member of GAO Group, was spun out from GAO Tek (formerly GAO Engineering) in July, 2006 as a result of its fast growing RFID business and its further heavy investment in this exciting market. GAO RFID has established itself as one of world's most influential suppliers of RFID products, particularly RFID tags, labels, and readers. GAO emphasizes on product quality. Read More...

Contact

GAO RFID Inc.

(416)-292-0038

[marketing@gaorfid.com](mailto:marketing@gaorfid.com)

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Headquarters of GAO Group  
601 Milner Avenue, Suite 300  
Toronto, Ontario  
M1B 2K4  
Canada  
Tel: 416-292-0038  
Fax: 416-292-2364

Contact Name:  
Ronnie Sant

Title:  
Marketing Coordinator

Address: 601 Milner Avenue, 2nd Floor.  
Toronto, Ontario.  
M1B 2K4 Canada

Corporate Phone: 1-416-292-0038  
Corporate Fax: 1-416-292-2364

[www.wowgao.com](http://www.wowgao.com)  
[attendee@wowgao.com](mailto:attendee@wowgao.com)

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