



InfoSight Corporation

"We Bar Code Difficult Stuff"

KettleTag™ PLUS PATENT-PENDING

Until recently, Hot Dip Galvanizers have been not been able to provide their customers with the benefits of automatic identification.

Plastic and paper tags have the potential to make the inventory process easier with their ability to hold bar-coded information, virtually eliminating human error as a factor. These non-metallic tags are able to survive heated caustic washes, and hydrochloric or sulfuric pickling acids for periods of up to 90 minutes at a time.

However, when it comes to the hot zinc dip process at temperatures of 850°F (450°C) or greater for extended periods of time, common tags vanish in a puff of smoke. Removing tags before the hot dip step, and reapplying labels to finished product adds cost, inconvenience, and opens the door to human error.

Embossed metal dog tags breeze through the zinc dip process, but in some cases do not survive acids. Typical 3-digit codes are useful for lot control as long as they remain readable, but are not of much value to the customer. Mechanical bar coding is unreliable and impractical, meaning the only option is manual inventory control, again risking human error.



As a designer of custom identification solutions for the metals industry, InfoSight Corporation (www.infosight.com) created the first touch-free, laser-markable metal tag and printing system in 1995, revolutionizing the steel industry.

In 1998, in response to a specific industry need, InfoSight developed PIC-ANNEAL®, a laser-marked metal bar code tag for wire and rod producers that survives pickling acids and high temperature annealing.

In 2001, InfoSight aimed its sights at the Hot Dip Galvanizing industry. The goal was a metal bar code tag that would be attached to product once, either by the galvanizer or the OEM steel fabricator. It would not have to be removed for any part of the galvanizing process, surviving until the steel was delivered to the final job site.

Of primary importance is the tag's ability to carry information pertinent to both the galvanizer and fabricator/customer. Bar codes readable by wireless scanning technology improve quality control for the galvanizer, helping insure jobs are returned to the right customer on time. Additional information helps the customer ensure jobs are kept together and delivered to the right project site. Special instructions can even simplify the field erection process by clearly identifying location and assembly information. A successful tag would give the galvanizing industry cradle-to-grave tracking with superior inventory control to insure clients of a quality product.

InfoSight has developed exactly such a tag, meeting the rigors of the galvanizing process. The **KettleTag™ PLUS** (patent-pending) resists caustic solutions (10% NaOH, 180°F/80°C, 4 hours) and acid baths (14% H2SO4 and 16% HCl, 4-6 hours or longer). The **KettleTag™ PLUS** also resists flux solutions, zinc baths of 850° - 1000°F (450°C - 540°C), and chromate dipping.



Before Galvanizing



After Galvanizing

The typical **KettleTag™ PLUS** configuration measures 3" by 3" (75mm x 75mm) with a hole punched near the top for easy product attachment. Larger tags (3" x 6", 75mm x 150mm) can hold even more information useful to the end customer. Custom sizes, with multiple holes or slots are available.

Tags are marked in real-time with an industrially-hardened CO2 laser, also designed and manufactured by InfoSight, resulting in black print across the light gray surface. The bar codes printed on the tags are readable by any standard bar code reader.

This new bar-coding system for automatic identification is making its mark around the world with galvanizers, and their customers. In South Africa recently, the prestigious industry group Industrelek presented Robor Galvanizers, a customer of InfoSight, with a special commendation award. The award recognizes the uniqueness of the InfoSight tagging system and its outstanding contribution to the industry, providing Robor's end-customers such as Anglo-American group with added confidence to use hot dip galvanizing on larger projects.

InfoSight thrives on these kinds of challenges, as the world's premiere innovator of robust identification solutions. If a tagging need can be solved with a slip of paper, it's probably not a job for InfoSight. InfoSight wants the tough stuff...the kinds of jobs that make other companies cringe...the kinds of jobs that other companies cannot do. This is what InfoSight have built their business and their reputation on. Give InfoSight a try!



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