



Tri-Optic Frequently Asked Questions

1/10/06

Q: What is a Checksum?

A: A checksum, also known as a check-digit, is an extra character appended to the end of the sequence in some labels. This extra character is mathematically calculated from the other characters in the sequence and does not show in the human readable portion of the label. Checksums are used to verify the accuracy of the scan result. The scanning device calculates the checksum independently and then compares the results of its calculation to the scanned checksum. If the results are the same the scan is valid. Dirt, or label damage can result in erroneous scans; checksums are used to guard against errors caused by mis-scanned data.

Q: The search results for my library list both labels with checksums and labels without checksums, how do I know which one I need?

A: Many of the libraries that support checksums can be optionally configured to not use the checksum. If the library is configured to use a checksum then a non-checksum label will not work; alternatively, if the checksum is turned off then a label with a checksum will not work. If your library supports an optional configuration then it is necessary to check the configuration before ordering labels. The library manufacturer is the best source for information on how to check the configuration.

Q. Can you describe the difference between a 1700-003 and a 1700-003AB?

A. The difference is that the AB runs backwards from the 003. AB characters run bottom to top and the 003 run top to bottom.

Q. How do you prevent de-laminating a label?

A. I have examined the samples you sent and can find no problem with the die-cut. When the die-cut is not complete then there is a small amount of tearing at the edge of the die-cut. This can be seen under magnification. The edges of the supplied labels are smooth which indicates that the die-cut was complete. It is very easy, however, to de-laminate a label if one attempts to remove it from the backing sheet in the wrong manner. If the user attempts to remove the label from the backer sheet by either peeling it up with their finger

nail or attempting to use a blade of some sort it is very easy to de-laminate the paper label.

The suggested procedure to avoid this problem is to fold the backing sheet and roll the labels free from the backer as shown in the illustration.



Following this procedure should eliminate your de-lamination problems.