



5 steps to automated
sample identification



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The 21st century promises to be the century of biology, with advances in our understanding of the living world leading to dramatic changes in the way we diagnose, treat, and cure disease. Along with those advances comes a rising tide of samples. Scientists in all kinds of labs are now facing the possibility and even the likelihood that their existing methods of identifying, tracking, and reporting on those samples may be insufficient to the task ahead.

An automated sample identification process that is integrated with a LIMS and connected to a quality label creation system can more easily cope with an increasing number of samples. An automated sample identification process can automatically print specialised identification labels when the samples arrive at the lab, using sample information from your LIMS.



How to set up an automatic sample identification system? We've summarised how it can be done in 5 easy steps.



Step 1: Select a durable sample identification label

- Which sample containers do you use?
- Which processes are your sample containers exposed to?

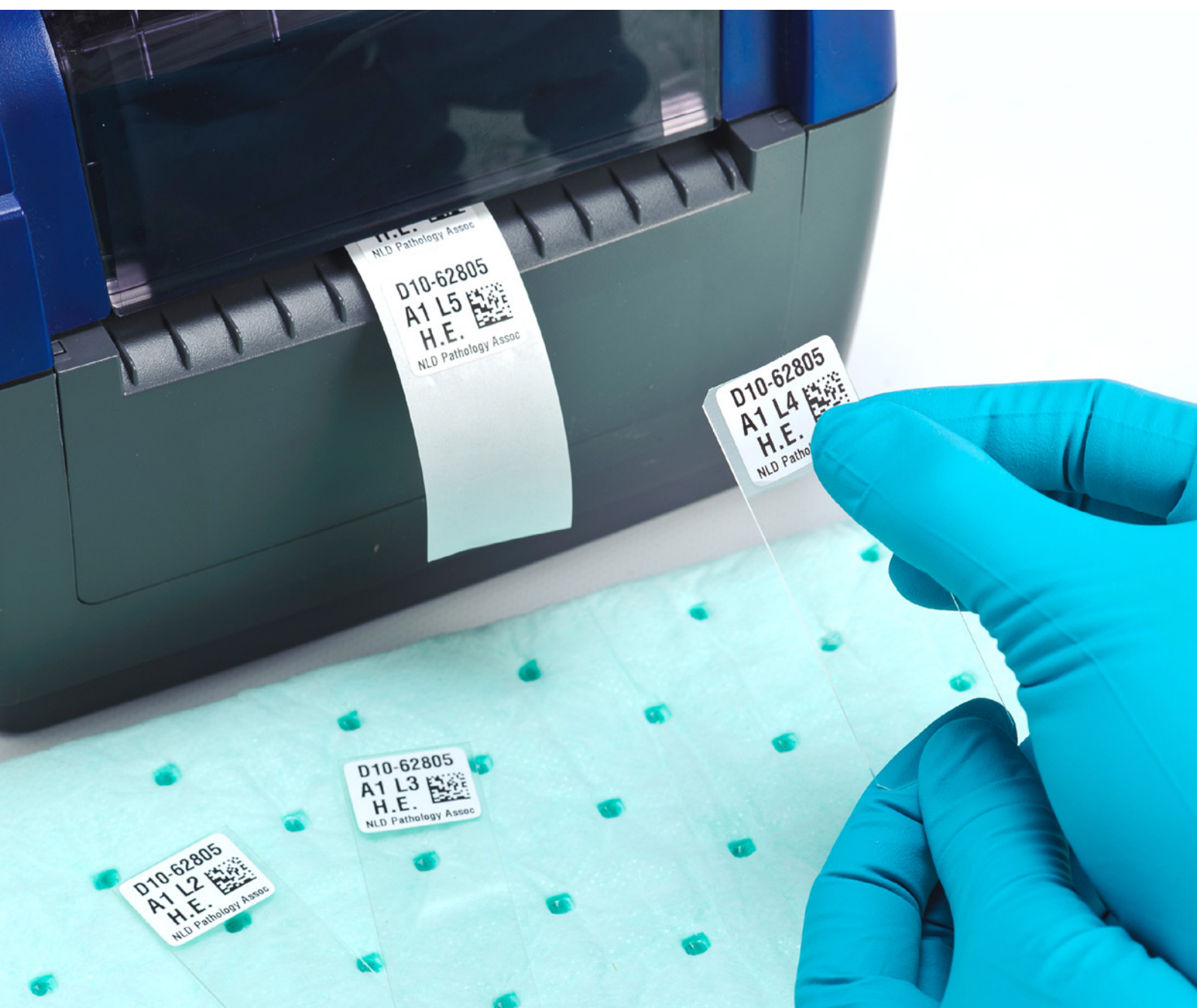
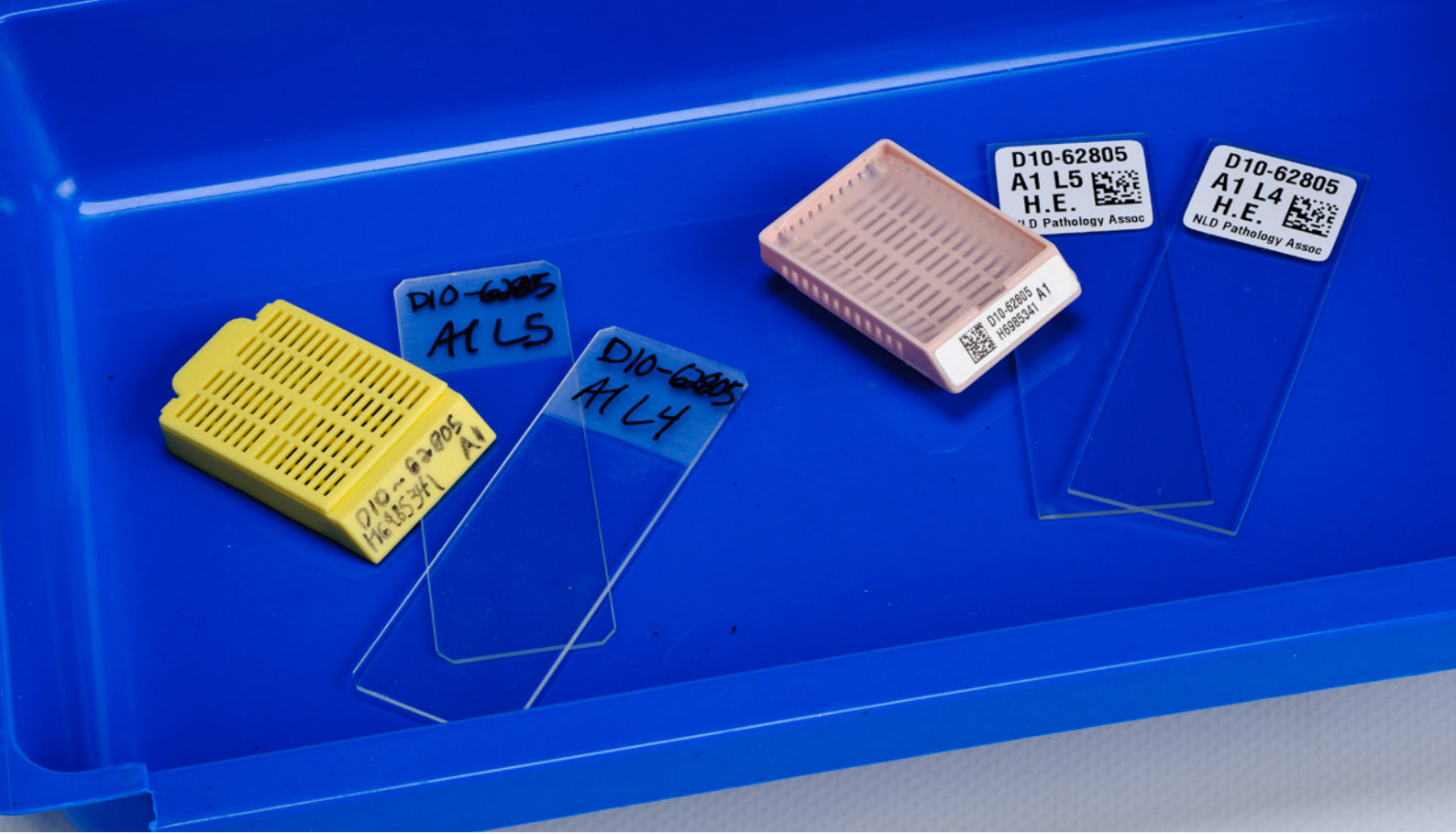
To set up automated sample identification, a good place to start is choosing the ideal sample identification label. To choose the most durable identification label for your samples, you need to list which sample containers you use and the conditions they will be exposed to.

Sample containers could be made out of plastic or glass, they can be flat or round, with a smooth or rough surface, and they come in various shapes and dimensions. Sample container characteristics help determine the best label for your laboratory because they determine what the optimal label adhesive and substrate will be.

Next, define which environmental conditions sample container types will be exposed to in storage and processing. Liquid nitrogen storage, freezer storage, chemicals used, staining, autoclaving: they all help decide which label will be most efficient to identify your samples.



Brady's Sample Identification Guide Book will enable you to select the best and most durable sample labels for your specific laboratory. Email emea_request@bradycorp.com to receive a copy.



Step 2: Replace handwriting with printing

- Select a quality, on-site sample label printer like the BBP™12 Label Printer
- Implement sample label barcodes

Printed labels offer significant benefits over handwriting. Printed text is more legible for more people, not just to those who know the technician's handwriting. On top of this, dedicated sample label printers employ researched inks that are specifically developed to resist laboratory chemicals or extreme temperatures. By installing a small and easy to use sample label printer on-site, handwritten sample labels can quickly become a thing of the past.



A sample label printer will create sample labels with a crisp print that can resist both sample storage and processing without fading or smudging. This high print quality and durability enable you to add barcodes onto samples that remain readable. Barcodes in turn allow professionals to quickly access a lot more information via your sample identification label.



Step 3: Create sample label templates

- Select a sample label creation software like Brady Workstation
- Create a label template for every type of sample container

Choose label creation software that enables the creation of label templates for specific sample containers. Decide where information needs to be printed, and where barcodes or 2D-codes should be added. Make sure the label template is compatible with its sample container and save it for future reuse.



Brady Workstation Print Partner puts you in complete control of label consistency by separating label design from label printing. Print Partner enables you to ensure label consistency by deploying predetermined label templates. These cannot be changed by operators in the production line. Via Print Partner, locked label templates can be completed with the necessary information. This information can even be drawn from Excel to optimise the process.



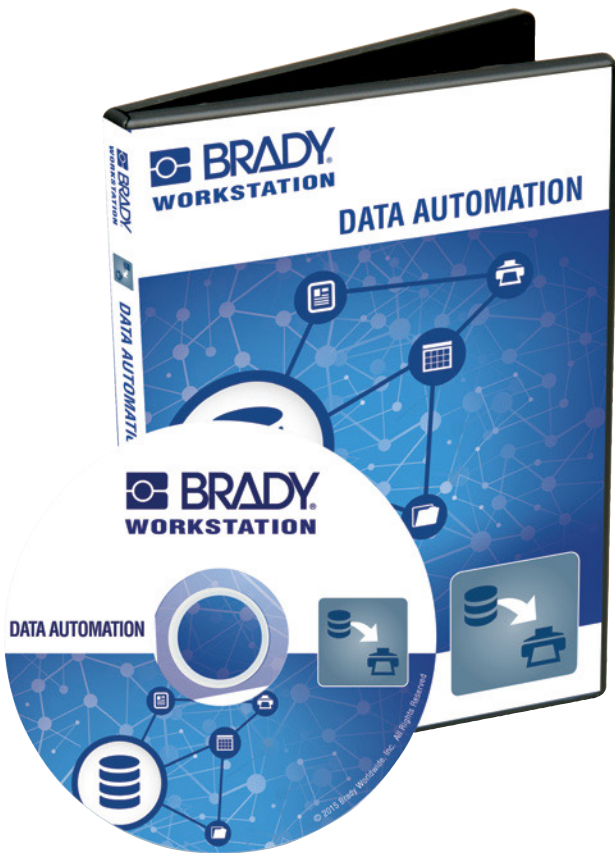
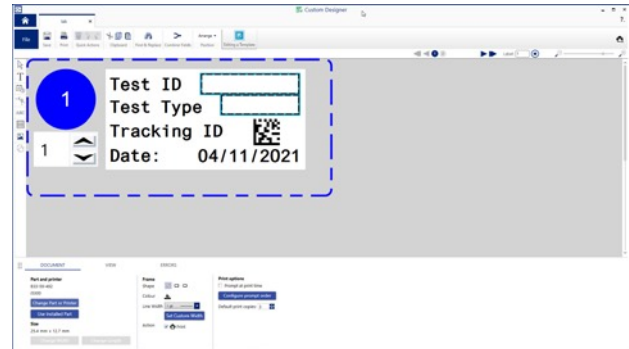
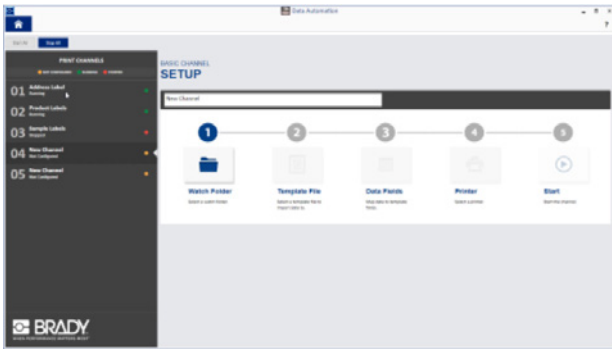
Step 4: Implement sample scanners

- Define where to read and input information from samples
- Select barcode scanners

Chart every area where you plan to scan or enter data from the sample. This will help determine where scanners are needed and what the requirements of those scanners will be. Anticipate the scan distance that best fits your purposes, decide on wireless scanners or scanners connected through USB, and determine whether you'll use hands-free omni-directional scanning or simple handheld scanners.



Barcode scanning enables faster and more accurate data input. Re-keying the same sample number at work stations becomes unnecessary, which saves time and eliminates transposition errors. It becomes possible to scan both samples and instruments to implement checkpoints in the process.



Try it today! Discover Brady Workstation at www.bradyeurope.com/workstation or download at workstation.bradyid.com.



Watch the Brady Workstation video on Brady's YouTube™ channel.

Step 5: Integrate with LIMS

- Export sample information from LIMS
- Automate sample label printing with Brady Workstation Data Automation

Use the Brady Workstation Data Automation app to set up automated sample label printing using information from a LIMS. Data Automation uses Brady Workstation label templates and .csv - exports from an ERP-system such as LIMS. It enables the setup of several print channels that send preselected information to a predetermined label template which can be printed on a printer of choice, loaded with the correct consumables. Once set up, Data Automation can automatically print a sample label when a LIMS receives information on a newly arrived sample.



The automated sample identification process

After completing these 5 steps, lab professionals only need to input sample information once in a LIMS.

This triggers the sample label printer to print a label according to a predetermined label template. If only one printer is used, lab professionals need to ensure the correct printer consumable is loaded, however, consumables can be loaded in several printers to accommodate various types of sample containers. Once applied to the sample, the specialised sample label will stay attached and remain legible throughout storage and processing. Its crisp print enables barcode printing, which, in turn, makes a lot more information accessible via samples.

When coupled with a LIMS, scanning a sample barcode can even provide a direct link with a study or research paper.



Email emea_request@bradycorp.com for more information on Sample Identification Automation, lab label creation software, the most durable sample label for your laboratory and quality sample label printers. Email us to receive our Sample Identification Guide Book!

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