



NEBS/Bellcore (Telecordia) Regulatory Compliance and Traceability

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Besides mechanical and electrical requirements, NEBS/Bellcore (Telecordia) has very specific labeling issues regulating telecommunications equipment in a central office environment. These regulations include the coding specifications and placement on products. Traceability is another issue in meeting regulatory compliance. In meeting NEBS/Bellcore CLEI (Common Language Equipment Identification) issues of bar coding, serialization, and traceability, your label becomes a critical agent.

A critical issue with label choice is legibility over time, adhesion and substrate choice. The CLEI requirements can be found in the Bellcore technical documents GR-485-CORE and GR-383-CORE. These documents deal with both the material requirements and the bar coding requirements including scannability, reflectivity, contrast, and shelf life.

CLEI codes are used by a Bellcore Client Company to identify, catalog and track inventory for various elements of their telecommunications network. The CLEI label generates information for many different areas such as function, value, physical and electrical characteristics, uniqueness and hazardous material indicators. Designing for the NEBS-type central office environment means that the product will have a useful life of 20 years.

NEBS/Bellcore defines the exact specifications of the substrate to be used and the thickness. The substrate is to be white polyester with a smooth, light matte finish with a pressure sensitive acrylic adhesive. The polyester gauge should be .002" to .004" with an adhesive thickness of .001" to .0015" for a total label thickness of .0075". The adhesive strength after curing must meet .45 ounces per inch.

In addition to the specifications for the label, there are size requirements and bar code requirements per ANSI specifications. Reflectivity and contrast are well defined so the bar codes can be easily scanned in a central office environment.

There are a number of items that are addressed on the label and some of them include the following:

CPR Number	Continuing Property Record
DCPR	Detailed Continuing Property Record
ECI Number	Equipment Catalog Record
ECIG	Equipment Catalog Item Group
ECN Number	Equipment Category Number
FRC	Field Report Code

These items may be required to be recorded on the equipment CLEI labels. The structure of the label, the bar code or alpha/numeric code is defined in the specific NEBS/Bellcore requirements.

It is the responsibility of the designer to consider the label, along with the design, as the label is specifically sized and placed for commonality. NEBS/Bellcore approval on a product could become an issue if there was not a place to affix a specific CLEI label.