



# Bar Codes Make Tracking Railway Air Brakes Easy

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*New York Air Brake depends on Metalcraft nameplates to serve global railway customers*

**Opportunity:** permanent identity labels on railway vehicle air brake products

New York Air Brake (NYAB), serving the rail industry since 1890, today operates the most technologically advanced rail brake manufacturing facility in North America, providing air brake control systems and components, electronically controlled braking systems, foundation brakes, training simulators and train handling systems worldwide. Their core valve technology is built into over 455,000 rail cars.

These products travel through some of the world's harshest environments, a single train may travel from arctic to desert environments where temperatures fluctuate from  $-45^{\circ}\text{C}$  to over  $65^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Cars frequently haul coal or chemicals and trains are subject to constant vibration and occasional shock, too. Over the life of the rail car, periodic maintenance is performed at service shops operated by several different entities.

**Solution:** barcode enabled product tracking

Each air brake sent to NYAB service centres is identified by a serial barcode that records when and where the product was manufactured. Further, each brake control contains five separate barcodes, one for the system and one for each of four major components.

The information is vital to warranty and repair work. NYAB uses the barcode identification to gather additional data during product testing and repair patterns in operation, lifespan and working conditions to improve the performance and durability of their products.

"We've been stopping trains worldwide for over 120 years," said NYAB senior buyer Robert Ward. "Tracking data on our products' performance helps us to deliver unequalled reliability, to maximise the customers' return on investment and to make our customers more profitable."

Robert Ward selected Metalcraft to provide anodised aluminium barcode nameplates for this important tracking job. The Iowa based manufacturer of property identification solutions specialises in durable nameplates and labels and they've adapted their nameplate adhesive to meet the demands of NYAB's challenging application.

**"Metalcraft is a really good company to work with,"** said Robert Ward. **"Orders are always handled promptly and efficiently. They're on top of everything."**

**Result:** dependable identification of brake parts

New York Air Brake's brake control equipment has a 30 year life span and a five year warranty.

Collecting data throughout these periods remains vital to NYAB's business, and durable bar codes enable this important work.

**"We have barcode nameplates that are still performing after being attached to brakes for 10 years,"** said Robert Ward. **"With the long-term exposure to extreme conditions, I can't imagine a more robust application for Metalcraft bar code nameplates."**

Call **0490 039 278** or visit **www.idtracon.com.au** for more information on **idtracon** bar code asset tags and their customers solutions.



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