

CUSTOMER: “Bulle de Linge” Industrial Laundry

- **12 production sites serving 80,000+ residents** in 950 elderly homes across France, Belgium, Luxembourg, and Spain;
- **45 tons of textiles and 200,000 residents' personal garments processed daily.**

ISSUE TO SOLVE:

- Challenges in **managing residents' personal garments during laundry collection**
- High risk of mixing personal garments with soiled linens and towels, leading to frequent losses = frustration for residents and families + time-consuming task for staff
- **25% of a resident's clothing is lost each year**

WHY THEY CHOSE DATAMARS:

Datamars was the only supplier able to provide a mobile sorting and reading solution with close hardware-software co-development.

RFID SOLUTION FEATURES:

- Personal clothing tagged with custom-encoded **LaundryChips FT403.**
- Developed a **custom RFID-equipped laundry cart** (the “Sorti-Cart”, patented) equipped with 3 separated laundry bins for linens, towels and garments. An RFID system placed inside both the linen and towels bins allows for immediate detection of misplaced garments.
- **Hundreds of Sorti-Carts implemented in tens of facilities** with increasing demand.

BENEFITS & RESULTS:

By **fixing sorting issues at the collection point**, the Sorti-Cart streamlined laundry process and boosted efficiency:

- In 1 year the system **prevented the loss of av. 2'025 garments per elderly home**
- **Improved staff productivity** by reducing time & effort
- **Increased customer satisfaction** and enhanced residents' quality of life by reducing lost clothing.

KEY INSIGHT: Datamars' RFID Sorti-Cart revolutionizes textile management in elderly homes, offering a **proactive, upstream approach to sorting issues** that benefits **both operators and residents.**



The patented “Sorti-Cart” developed by Datamars in collaboration with Bulle De Linge



The “Sorti-Cart” in action: when a personal garment is thrown into the wrong bin, the red-light-buzzer alerts the operator.

Revolutionizing Textile Management In Retirement Homes: how RFID can improve the quality of life for nursing home residents.

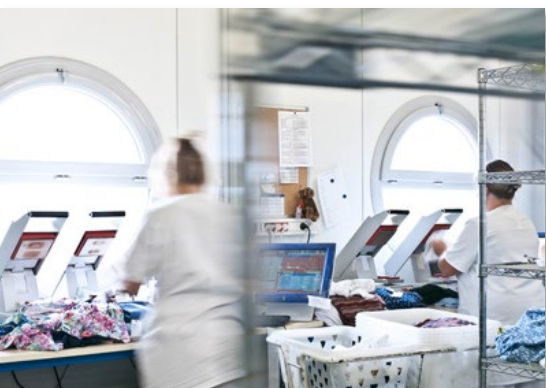
The custom RFID solution developed by Datamars in collaboration with its esteemed industrial laundry client, Bulle de Linge, directly tackles a significant challenge prevalent in retirement homes: the loss and misplacement of residents' private clothing.



Bulle de Linge facilities



Bulle de Linge Production Site



Heat-sealing tags to textiles at Bulle de Linge's

Bulle de Linge key numbers:

- Industrial laundry with 12 production sites serving >80,000 residents at 950 establishments in France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Spain.
- 45 tons of textiles processed per day
- 200,000 residents' personal garments cleaned per day
- 15,000 items of residents' clothing tagged per day

Issue to solve: Retirement homes often face challenges in managing residents' personal garments, especially during the collection of soiled textiles by nursing home operators for laundering. The risk of inadvertently mixing personal garments with soiled bed linen and towels, leading to loss within the facility or laundry premises, poses considerable frustration and dissatisfaction to residents and their families, while also presenting a time-consuming and complex management task for staff.

- About 25% of a resident's trousseau is lost each year in the residence

The Solution: To effectively address this issue, the implementation of an RFID system is crucial to prevent the accidental mixing of personal garments with linen and towels, which could result in loss.

The most efficient method for achieving this is at the "laundry" collection point at elderly homes, where maids collect in their laundry bins all items to be washed from residents' rooms and shared spaces.



The patented "RFID Sorti-Cart" developed by Datamars in collaboration with Bulle De Linge



Elderly home staff using the Sorti-Carts

In fact, if linen/towels and residents' personal garments are not correctly sorted from the beginning (i.e. from the moment they are collected in the laundry bags by nurses at the elderly home), since linen/towels and personal garments undergo distinct laundry processes and sometimes even different locations, if they are mixed up by mistake and ended up in the wrong laundry bag, they can be lost anyway.

Furthermore, the manual sorting of residents' personal garments from linen/towels after the soil collection is not a viable option for nursing home operators from a hygiene standpoint.

In response to these challenges, Datamars and Bulle de Linge collaborated to develop a tailored solution: the Sorti-Cart. This specialized trolley, equipped with Datamars RFID technology, revolutionizes textile management by directly addressing sorting issues at the point of collection within nursing homes.

Key Features of this custom RFID solution:

- All residents' private clothing have been chipped with Datamars Laundrychips 403 with custom encoding.
- The Sorti-Cart, developed in partnership with linen trolley supplier "France Hopital," features two distinct compartments: one for linen/towels and another separated one for residents' personal clothing. Crucially, RFID readers and antennas are strategically placed within the linen bins, enabling immediate detection of misallocated personal clothing items. In case a personal garment is mistakenly placed in the linen or towel bin, a connected buzzer and a stack light alert the operator, facilitating prompt correction and item placement in the correct bin.



Sorti-Cart console with operational buttons

Impact: By addressing sorting issues at the point of collection, the Sorti-Cart significantly optimizes sorting operations within retirement homes, enhancing efficiency and elevating customer satisfaction levels. This proactive approach minimizes downstream complications in laundry processing, thereby reducing time and effort for nursing home staff. With hundreds of Sorti-Carts realized to date and demand steadily increasing, the solution has gained significant traction, with tens of facilities already benefiting from its implementation.



Datamars Laundrychip 403 heat-sealed on a personal garment

Savings and results:

- About 2 garments saved per resident per month
- Makes day-to-day staff work easier
- Improves relations between families and staff (loss of residents' clothing is a major source of conflict)
- Reassures residents, who are always worried about losing their clothes



Sorti-Cart development team

Conclusion: Datamars' RFID solution represents a groundbreaking advancement in textile management practices within retirement homes. By offering a proactive, upstream approach to sorting issues, the Sorti-Cart delivers tangible benefits to both nursing home operators and laundry services. As observed by Steve Vital, Field Application Engineer at Datamars Textile ID, the Sorti-Cart makes a meaningful impact on residents' lives by mitigating the emotional toll of garment losses. Notably, the Sorti-Cart has been granted a patent by Datamars and Bulle de Linge, underscoring its innovative significance within the industry.