communicate with the tags to collect information about the object custodian and match the acquired information to a database. Together with the electronic product code (EPC), which are stored on the RFID tags and used, for example, to identify manufacturer, product and item serial number, and electronic product code information services (EPCIS), which allows manufacturers to describe their RFID/EPC tagged products, a manufacturer may achieve greater speed and visibility into their supply chains, while increasing operational efficiency and store effectiveness. Moreover, information may be shared between trading partners.

[0004] Despites the advantages of using RFID in a supply chain system, many weaknesses remain. For example, RFID is expensive and only works when sufficient RF signal strength exists. Additionally, the presence of metal objects makes it difficult to decode the signals. Significant drawbacks to RFID include its vulnerability to hacking as well as the various implementations used by different manufacturers. That is, global standards are still being worked on. It should also be noted that some RFID devices are not designed to leave their respective network (as in the case of RFID tags used for inventory control within a company). Accordingly, this can cause problems for companies due to the proprietary nature of RFID, especially with respect to interoperability. In a world where the protection of goods and services has become increasingly important, there is a need to improve the reliability, certainty and interoperability of monitoring products in a supply chain system.

United States Patent Publication No. US 2004/0250142 A1 discloses a system which can read and interpret a drivers license magnetic strip, linear bar code, pdf417 code or smart

card and also illuminate any states Ultra Violet hidden security feature embedded within the driver's license. The system can determine after reading the mag stripe, pdf417 code or smart card whether to turn on the UV leds to interpret those states hidden security feature. The system will read the linear, pdf417 code, mag stripe or smart card and a command will be sent to turn on the UV leds if that state has an UV security feature embedded in it.

SUMMARY OF THE DISCLOSURE