

# Challenging the barcode reading system

The barcode reading system should be challenged regularly to ensure good operation. To challenge the system you should corrupt the printed barcode in any one of the following ways:

- Remove a bar.
- Add a bar.
- Join two or more bars.

When corrupting the barcode it is important that you do so in such a way as to replicate a 'mixed' product. A simple scribble through the barcode may not induce an error. Only barcodes corrupted by removing, adding or joining bars are guaranteed to be recognised as 'mixed' product.

Following these guidelines will ensure good accurate results at all times.

## **Guideline to remove a bar**

Simply blank out one or more of the printed bars using either tipex or a white sticky back label.

Learned Barcode (uncorrupted)



Corrupted Barcode (one bar removed)



## **Guideline to adding a bar**

When adding a bar you must attempt to replicate an extra printed bar (at either end of the barcode) – as a mixed product would appear to the system.

You should leave the standard gap between the first/last printed bar and the bar you are adding. You should also use a suitably dense marker or ballpoint pen. Your bar should be at least the width of a thin bar and no wider than the width of a thick bar.

Learned Barcode (uncorrupted)



Corrupted Barcode (add a bar)



## **Guideline to joining bars**

When joining bars you must completely join two separate bars.

Learned Barcode (uncorrupted)



Corrupted Barcode (join up two or more bars)

