RETAIL giant Coles Myer is trialling self-checkout technology at two Victorian supermarkets in a move that could result in the system being extended to other stores.

The six-month proof-of-concept trial at Bi-Lo Fountain Gate, which began yesterday, and at Coles Chadstone, which begins on Thursday, will assess the technology and monitor customer and staff acceptance.

The Fujitsu U-Scan system will let shoppers scan, bag and pay for items using touchscreen menus, and guided by voice and text instructions.

Payment can be made using cash, Eftpos or credit card.

Four self-scanning checkouts will operate at both stores, overseen by a supervisor, who will assist customers if required.

A Coles Myer spokeswoman said the retailer did not know what to expect from the pilot or how it would use the results.

"We will look at the results at the end of the pilot and make a decision. It is too early to say what take-up rates would be required for a further roll-out."

Customers had been enthusiastic at yesterday’s launch at Fountain Gate, she said.

The two stores were chosen because of their size and a mixed customer base.

Self-scanning systems have been tested by a number of retailers internationally and throughout Australia, including Big W, which used NCR’s FastLane units.

The Retailer Foodland Association, which operates in Western Australia, Queensland, northern NSW and the north and south islands of New Zealand is also testing self-checkout technology.

It is running a six-month pilot of an NCR system at a Perth store.