Meet GS1

GS1 global standards are the most widely used supply chain standards in the world.

Over 2 million organisations across the globe use GS1 Standards today, to identify, capture and share information about their products, services, locations and assets.
Who is GS1?

GS1 is a not-for-profit, user governed, membership based organisation. GS1 drives the design and implementation of supply chain standards to enable efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains globally and across sectors.

GS1 in Ireland

For over 30 years GS1 Ireland has managed the allocation of licences for globally unique identification numbers to local organisations wishing to implement GS1 Standards. GS1 Ireland is one of 110 GS1 membership organisations that operate in over 150 countries worldwide.

What is the GS1 System?

The GS1 System of Standards is an integrated suite of standards that, when used together, enables companies to uniquely identify, capture and share information about products and other business entities and in so doing to achieve supply chain visibility.

The GS1 System is a foundation for traceability and other visibility-driven processes and applications which in turn improve operational efficiency, reduce costs and improve customer satisfaction and business performance.

What are the benefits of using the GS1 System?

Utilising GS1 Standards as a foundation for business process enables organisations to create Visibility, Efficiency and Safety within their supply chains.

Visibility and efficiency deliver practical, measurable benefits in the following ways:
- efficient and accurate product and order management
- reduced out of stocks
- improved on-shelf availability
- reduced waste and shrinkage
- more efficient use of labour resources
- reduced transport and warehousing costs
- replacement of paper based processes with electronic ones.

GS1 makes it possible for businesses to see clearly:
Right Product
Right Place
Right Time

For an item or event to be visible in a business process, it must first be identified, its activity captured, and the information shared in a standard way so that all who need the information can understand it.

Enabling Visibility

The GS1 System of Standards is a framework for visibility, providing organisations with the what, when, where and why of an item's movement, enabling businesses to make more-informed business decisions.
The GS1 System

The GS1 System is a portfolio of standards that addresses the identification of real-world entities (both physical and virtual), the capture of data from physical objects, and the sharing of information about those entities, among participants in the supply chain.

Identify, Capture and Share with the GS1 System

**IDENTIFY**

The first layer of the GS1 System is identification. As the foundation of the GS1 System, the GS1 Identification Keys are globally established and defined, unique identifiers for accessing information about objects stored in databases. The GS1 Identification Keys enable secure and non-significant identification across business processes and transactions. The GS1 Identification Keys bring value to the GS1 System by connecting the physical flow of goods with the digital flow of information about them.

Different keys have been defined for the identification of various objects and entities such as products, locations, assets, documents and organisations. Examples of the 10 different GS1 Identification Keys include the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) for traded products, the Global Location Number (GLN) for identifying legal entities and physical locations and Global Asset Identifiers (GIAI and GRAI) for individual and returnable assets.

**CAPTURE**

The second process utilising elements of the GS1 System is data capture. The GS1 Standards define the means for automatically capturing data that is carried on physical objects, by way of barcode or RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) tag scanning.

Data capture enables a connection to be created between physical objects and digital information about them.

GS1 System compliant data carriers include EAN, UPC and GS1 Data Matrix barcodes in addition to GS1 EPC compliant RFID tags.

**SHARE**

The third layer of the GS1 System is implementing standards-based processes for data sharing. The GS1 data sharing standards provide the foundation for electronic business transactions and include standards for master data, transactional data and event data.

- Master data is shared via the Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN)
- Transactional data is exchanged via the eCom (EDI) EANCOM or GS1 XML messages
- Event Data is communicated using the EPCIS or Electronic Product Code Information Service for RFID tagged items.

Scanning barcodes or reading RFID tags speeds up data collection and eliminates manual data collection errors.
Facilitating Industry Collaboration

Our standards bring together organisations from all parts of the supply chain, including manufacturers, distributors, retailers, hospitals, logistics providers, customs organisations, software developers and regulatory authorities.

When organisations work effectively together, it brings benefits to all parties. However, it’s only possible to work together when everyone speaks the same language. We enable organisations who want to work together to communicate in the most efficient way.

Organisations that sometimes have diverging business interests, work together under GS1’s leadership to agree upon common standards that make the supply chain faster, more efficient, less complex and less expensive.

GS1 Services

GS1 works with organisations to achieve greater supply chain efficiency, deliver traceability systems, automate business processes and eliminate the costs and errors associated with poor quality data.

To achieve this aim GS1 Ireland provides on-going support for local organisations implementing GS1 supply chain standards through our helpdesk, training and advisory services. In addition to educating users about the technical aspects of GS1 Standards, GS1 Ireland actively engages with new users and industry sectors to promote the community and industry-wide benefits of utilising standards-based processes.

GS1 - The Global Language of Business

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