ITDS Product Information Committee
MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 17, 2008
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: USDA, Room 3074

A meeting of the ITDS Product Information Committee (PIC) was called to order by the Chairman on November 17, 2008, at 10:34 AM ET in Washington, DC, and by teleconference. The following members were present in the meeting room or on the phone:

Member	Agency
Douglas Bailey	USDA/AMS, Chair
Max Castillo, Jr.	FDA/ITDS
Wesley Chen	EPA
John Blachere	Consumer Product Safety Commission
Michiko Shaw	USDA/AMS
Dean Kastner	USDA/AMS
John Calabrese	IRS
Candace Funk	USDA/APHIS
Mary Stanley	USDA/FSIS
David Giamporcaro	EPA
Steven Beningo	DOT
Stephen Arens	GS1 US
Art Smith	GS1 Canada
Laurie Bryant	Meat Importers Council of America*
Marianne Rowden	American Association of Exporters and Importers*
Mike Kelley	USDA/FSIS*
Susan Dyszel	DHS*
Jennifer Widay	DHS
LuAnn Alspach	DOJ*
Mara Alexander	U.S. International Trade Commission*
Margaret Irwin	American Trucking Association*

* Participated by phone

The issues below were presented and discussed, but not necessarily in the following order.

OPENING REMARKS ---------- BAILEY

Mr. Bailey opened the meeting by asking those present and on the phone to introduce themselves and note the participating government agency (PGA) or trade group that they were representing. Mr. Arthur Smith of GS1 Canada and Mr. Stephen Arens of GS1 US were then introduced to review the capabilities of the GS1 Global Product Classification (GPC).

PRESENTATION OF CAPABILITIES ---------- SMITH

The Capabilities Profile completed by the GPC representatives was distributed in advance to all PIC participants. Additionally, participants received by email a copy of the presentation slides in the morning before the presentation. Mr. Smith reviewed the presentation slides, which are attached to these minutes along with a copy of the completed Capabilities Profile Statement.

Mr. Smith noted that there are 108 GS1 member organizations serving 150 countries and that 95 percent of GS1 company members are small to mid-sized companies.

Mr. Smith noted that the GPC, which began five years ago in 2003, serves as a way for companies to map their proprietary product coding systems to an external, public standard, thereby facilitating electronic commerce. He noted that the use of the GPC "brick" and characterization attributes is required for every product published in the GS1 Global Data Synchronization System (GDSN), a catalog service used by GS1 companies to manage product and party data.

Mr. Smith noted that a mapping tool will be available shortly that can "translate" product classification codes between the GPC and UNSPSC systems.

After Mr. Smith presented the slides explaining the general structure and services of GS1 and the functionality of the GPC, the floor was opened to questions.

QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD ---------- ALL MEMBERS

Questions were raised by members mostly after the presentation. These questions included the following:

A question was asked about efforts to coordinate with the World Customs Organization (WCO). Mr. Smith replied that GS1 had a Memorandum of Understanding with the WCO and were looking at ways to link the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) into the Customs' Uniform Consignment Reference. Having a GTIN reference is a key to utilizing the GPC for product characterization. Work is also underway with the healthcare community to develop standard references to pharmaceutical products, the only healthcare products currently covered under the GPC.

A question was asked how the system would work for a small company, for example in China, selling to a large company such as Wal-Mart in the US. Mr. Smith explained that a unique product reference would be established in one of two ways: if the product was a "Private Label", such as being sold as a Wal-Mart branded product, then Wal-Mart would assign the GTIN and direct the Chinese company to use that GTIN when representing the product. The second case would be where the product is sold under the brand name of the Chinese company, in which case the Chinese company would need its own company prefix number from GS1 and would assign its own GTIN and use that number to represent the product in supply chain channels.

EPA asked about chemical product classes. Mr. Smith stated that more work needs to be done in this area to create useful chemical classes. Some work is now beginning to identify address traceability of chemical ingredients used in prepared products. For automotive products, the GPC's focus has been on aftermarket parts such as those products sold at Pep Boys.

The question was asked if the Canadian government had considered the use of GPC and international product codes in its “single window” systems. Mr. Smith answered by saying that GS1 had not yet had those discussions with Canada, but in this case the US could provide leadership to the international community by validating and advocating this approach.

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS ---------- BAILEY

After all questions had been answered, Mr. Bailey reminded members that the next meeting would be on December 3 at 10:00 AM ET with the eCl@ss representatives. This December meeting would likely complete the interviews with Dictionary Maintenance Organizations. Mr. Bailey announced that the Committee would be meeting with representatives of a global catalog, the GS1 Global Data Synchronization System, at its regularly scheduled January 7, 2009, 10 AM ET meeting. Participants were asked to make a note of these dates. Finally PGAs were reminded that final property lists for products of interest to PGAs were due to the Chair on December 1, 2008. PGAs can send an advance draft at any time to Mr. Bailey and individual feedback will be provided.

Mr. Bailey called for final questions or comments, and hearing none, adjourned the meeting at approximately 12:00 AM.

Attachments

Presentation Slides
Capabilities profile

GPC Context Overview

N Arthur Smith
Chair Global Product Code Standards Committee
November 17, 2008

GS1 in a nutshell

GS1 in a nutshell

The global language of business

GS1 is a not-for-profit organisation that develops global standards for the identification of goods and services.

GS1's standards foster **cooperation** and encourage **information-sharing** worldwide.

Thanks to GS1, businesses and organisations can improve the **efficiency** of their supply and demand chains by adding useful information to any exchange of goods or services.

GS1 in numbers

A fully integrated global organisation, GS1 was formed in early **2005** from the joining of EAN International , Electronic Commerce Council of Canada, and the Uniform Code Council (UCC) .

- **30** years of experience
- **104** member organisations representing **all points** in the supply chain
- Over a **million** companies doing business across **145** countries
- Over **20** represented sectors (FMCG, healthcare, transport, defence…)
- Over **5 billion** transactions a day

GS1 is the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world.

GS1: A Broad Portfolio (2/4)

GS1 offers **solutions,** each integrating a number of GS1 products.

Traceability is a robust solution for tracking and tracing items such as food or pharmaceuticals through the supply chain.

Patient Safety ensures the prevention of medical errors and counterfeiting through the healthcare supply chain.

GS1: A Broad Portfolio (3/4)

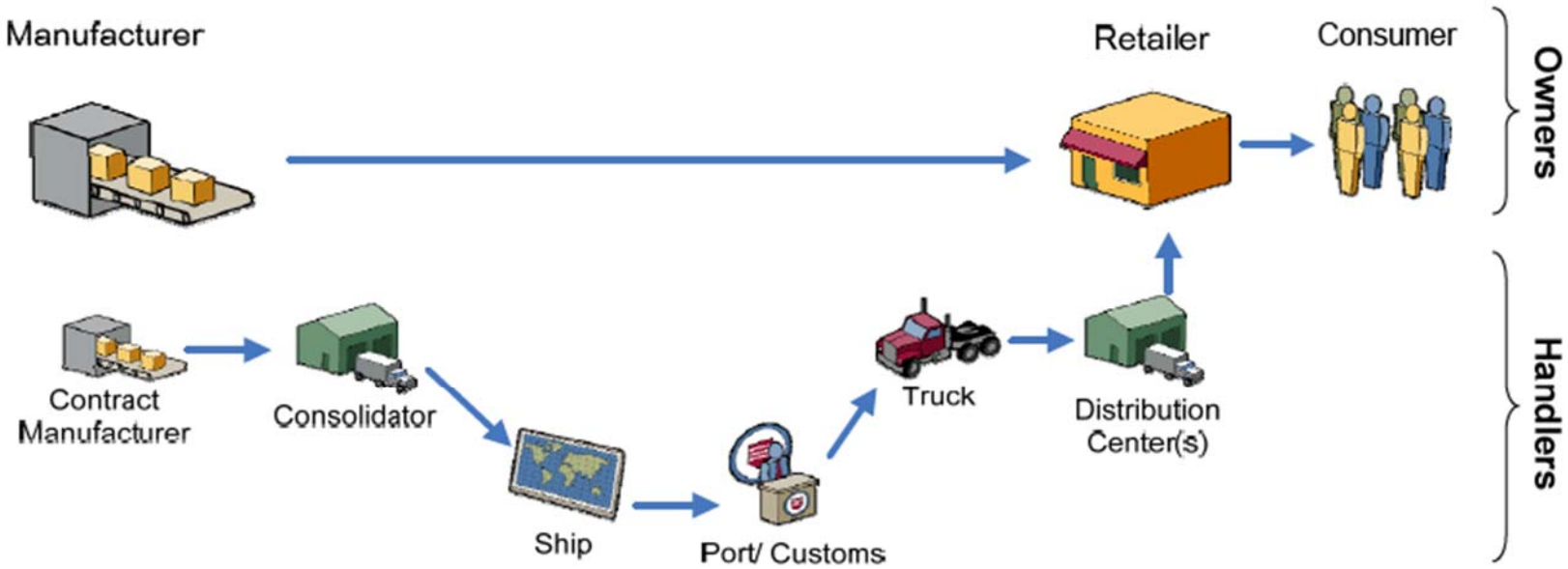
GS1 has active programs in several specific industry **sectors**.

Healthcare: In 56 countries worldwide, GS1 standards have been chosen to identify pharmaceutical products uniquely. Major regulatory bodies have endorsed them, including those in the US, Japan and the UK.

Defense: Global Solutions offered by GS1 play a role in the defence sector including but not limited to procurement, logistics and asset tracking. GS1 standards are endorsed by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

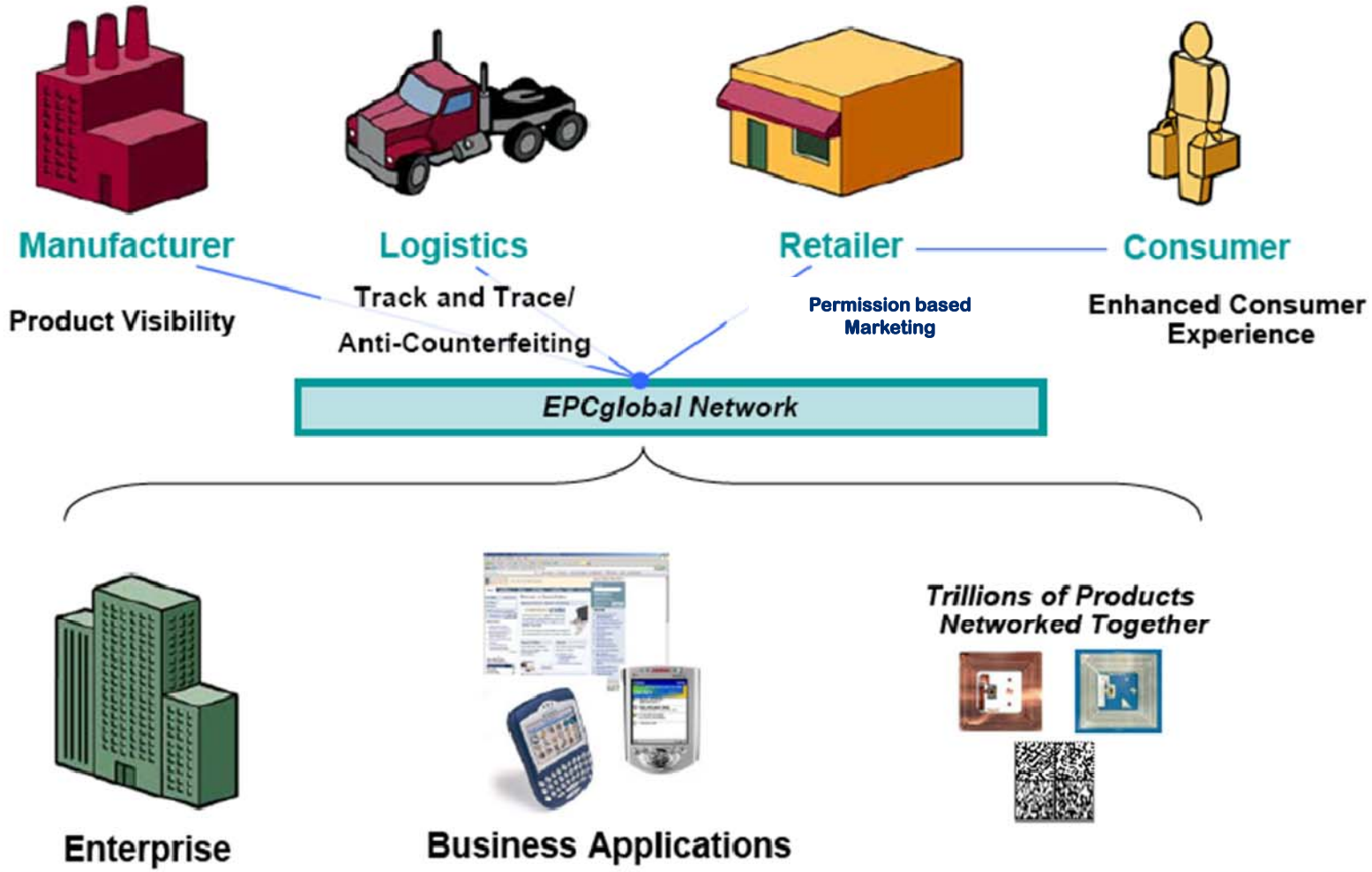
Transport & Logistics: Today no transport and logistics company can be efficient without robust information technology and data communication support. GS1 standards help hundreds of T&L companies.

The Supply Chain is Simple…Right?



- Even "Simple" supply chains have multiple touch points and handlers before reaching a final destination.
- Different actors may physically possess, but do not own, products (e.g. shipping)
- Complex supply chains, with multiple product owners, have a greater need to locate products and ensure they were sold through the proper channels.

Vision: An Interconnected World



Anti-Counterfeit or Brand Protection

- Was my product sold and distributed via the expected channels?
- Have counterfeit products entered the supply chain?
- Has the product been authenticated?

Chain of Custody

- Where did my product come from?
- Can the chain of custody be trusted?
- Where is my product located now?
- Was the shipment received securely as it moved across the ocean?

Inventory Visibility

- Have the displays reached the needed intermediate locations yet for next month's promotion?
- Where are the units in the lot that need to recalled NOW?
- Where are the items with an expiration date of today?

Business Use Cases for Visibility

- Inventory Visibility
  - Product Visibility
  - Recalls

→ Visibility enables traceability of products

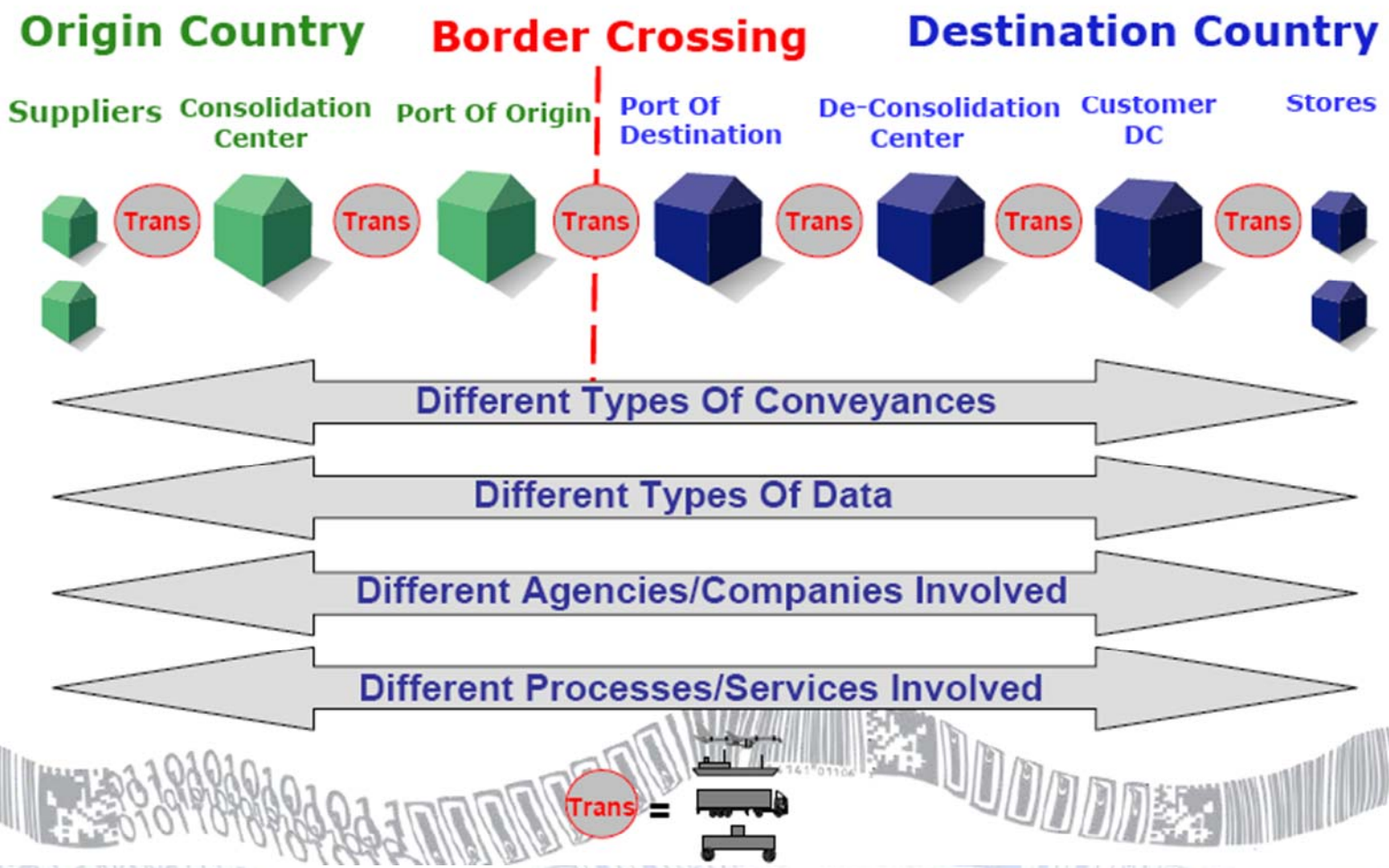
- Brand Protection
  - Counterfeit
  - Diversion, Gray Market
  - Channel Management

→ Visibility enables traceability and authentication of products

- Chain of Custody
  - Track and Trace
  - Electronic Pedigree

→ Visibility supplies the custody information for creating authenticated chain of custody

Global Visibility Standards Challenges



The GS1 Working Committee – Mobile Commerce Interface

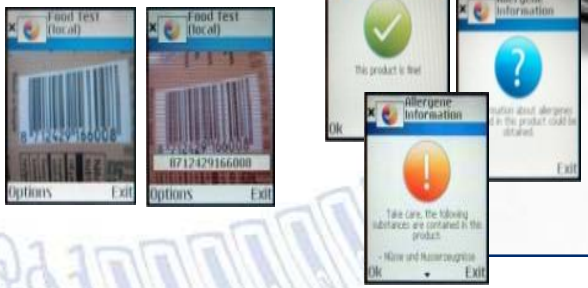
Product Recall

Traceability

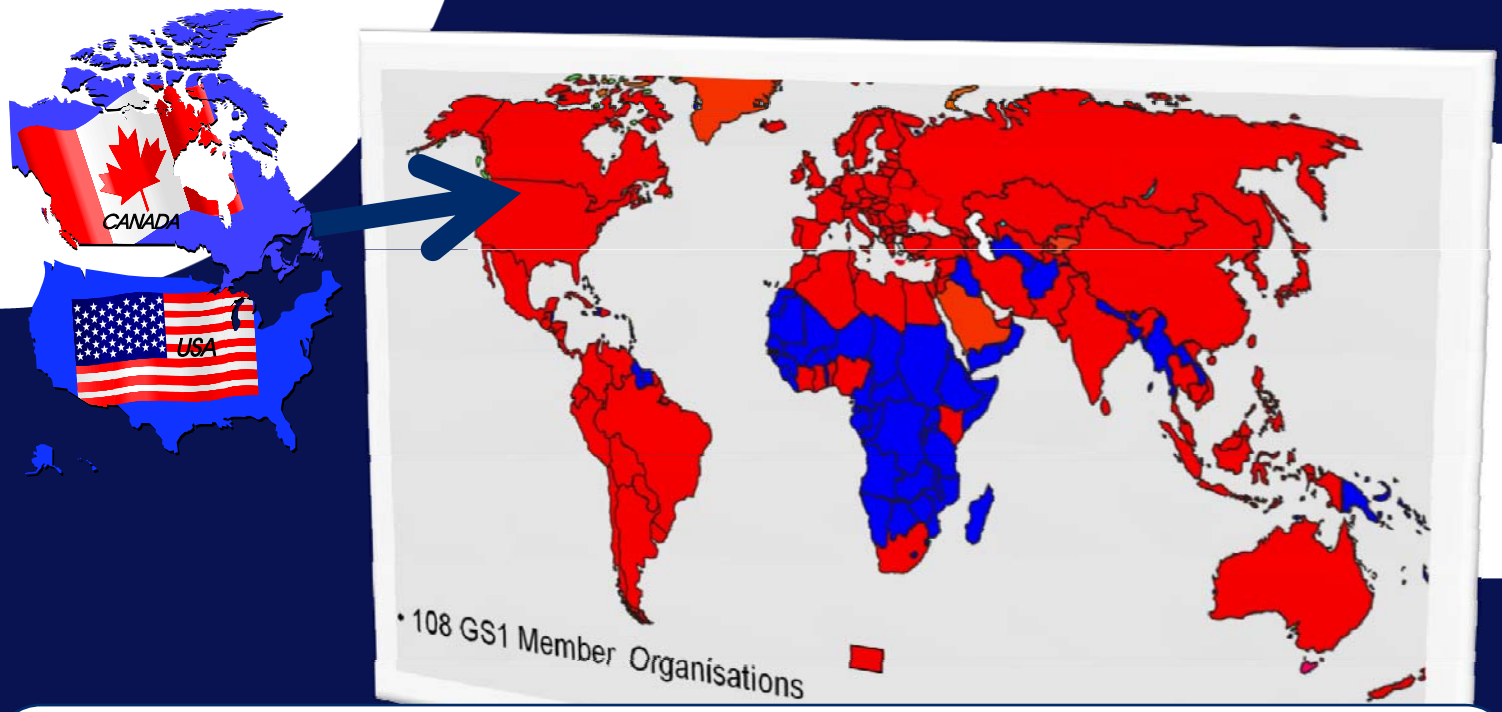
- Product identity
- Product integrity

World Issues

- Green
- Country of origin
- Blood-free
- Organic
- Kosher
- Fair-trade
- Security



GS1 North America Joint Venture



New Ways of Working Together - 2008

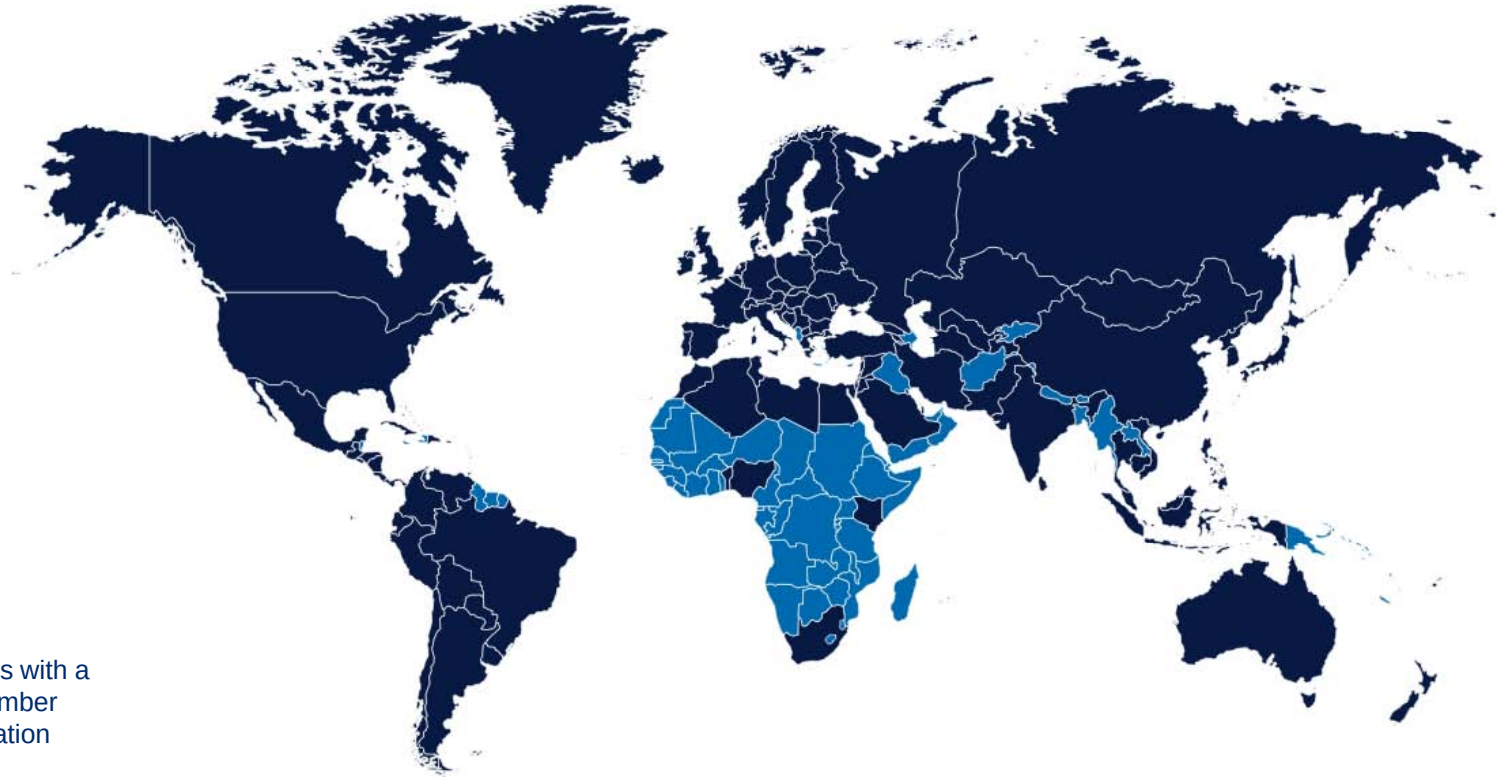
- **Product Recall / Traceability - Collaboration Zone**
- **Empty Miles / Sustainability – Collaboration Zone**
- **1SYNC Item Centre - GDSN**

GS1: A Broad Portfolio (4/4)

GS1 provides a wide variety of **services** to its user companies.

- Implementation support
- Benchmarking
- Verification tools and calculators
- Consulting services
- Software
- Guides and manuals
- Training and education
- Helpdesk
- And more…

GS1 Member Organisations



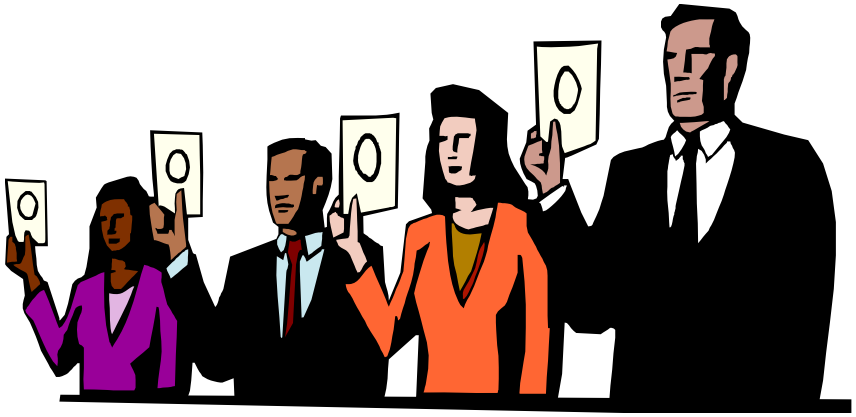
Countries with a GS1 Member Organisation

Countries served on a direct basis from GS1 Global Office (Brussels)

108 Member Organisations.
150 Countries served.
Local services, global reach.

GS1: Yesterday and Today

From merely a standards-making body…

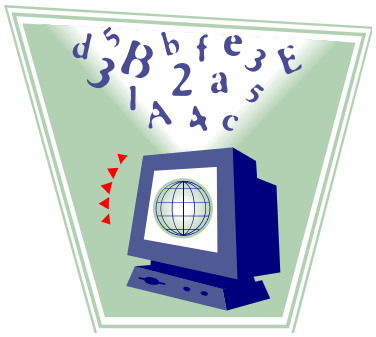


…to a complete standards and services organisation.

GS1: Values

- GS1 is a not-for-profit organisation
- GS1 is neutral from our business partners
- GS1 is user-driven and user-governed
- GS1 serves all companies: from multinationals to SMEs
- GS1 is a platform for collaborative agreement between partners
- GS1's employees and associates are our most important asset

GS1 Products



The GS1 System

An integrated system of global standards that provides for accurate identification and communication of information regarding products, assets, services and locations.

GS1 ID Keys

GS1 Identification Keys are non-significant, secure and global unique numbers which support the identification of items, services,

locations, logistic units and returnable containers

GS1 ID Keys

GTIN:

Global Trade Item Number

The GS1 ID Key assigned to any product or service that may be priced, or ordered, or invoiced at any point in any supply chain.

GS1 ID Keys

SSCC:

Serial Shipping Container Code

The GS1 ID Key for an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage, and that needs to be managed across the supply chain.

GS1 ID Keys

GLN:

Global Location Number

The GS1 ID Key used to identify physical locations of items in the supply chain.

GS1: A Broad Portfolio

GS1 has a full portfolio of **products.**

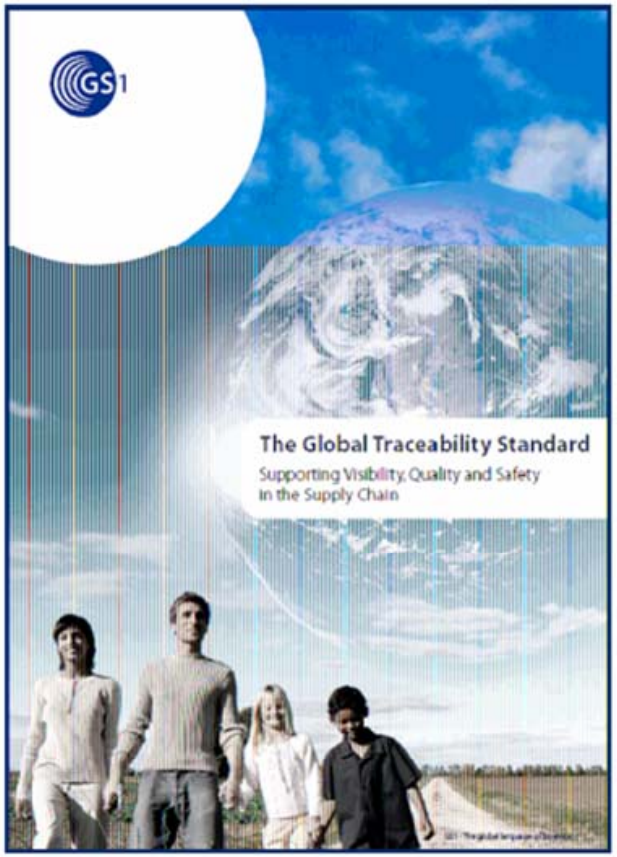
GS1 BarCodes	**Global standards for automatic identification** **Rapid and accurate item, asset or location identification**
GS1 eCom	**Global standards for electronic business messaging** **Rapid, efficient & accurate business data exchange**
GS1 GDSN	**The environment for global data synchronisation** **Standardised, reliable data for effective business transactions**
GS1 EPCglobal	**Global standards for RFID-based identification** **More accurate, immediate and cost effective visibility of information**

GS1 Traceability Foundation

GDSN and EPCN currently have a shared dependency on core product information

Source : An Integrated View of Global Data Synchronization and EPCglobal Network
Published by Global Commerce Initiative and IBM

GS1 Canada Leadership
GS1 Traceability Standards



GS1 Canada Key Registries Today

- Canadian Grocery Product Registry
- Canadian Pharmaceutical Product Registry
- Canadian Vaccine Product Registry
- Canadian Food Service Product Registry
- Canadian GS1 Prefix Registry
- Canadian GLN Registries

- TBD - Canadian Medical Surgical Product Registry

What is Data Synchronization

Every company has a **database** filled with master data about the products they make, or sell, or buy

But when one company needs to **change** any bit of information in their database or **add a new item** to it, **another database may not be up to date anymore…!**

The GS1 Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN) enables a single point of truth for master data.

Synchronizing Master Data

Height
Width
Depth
Weight
Items per case
Cases per pallet
GTIN

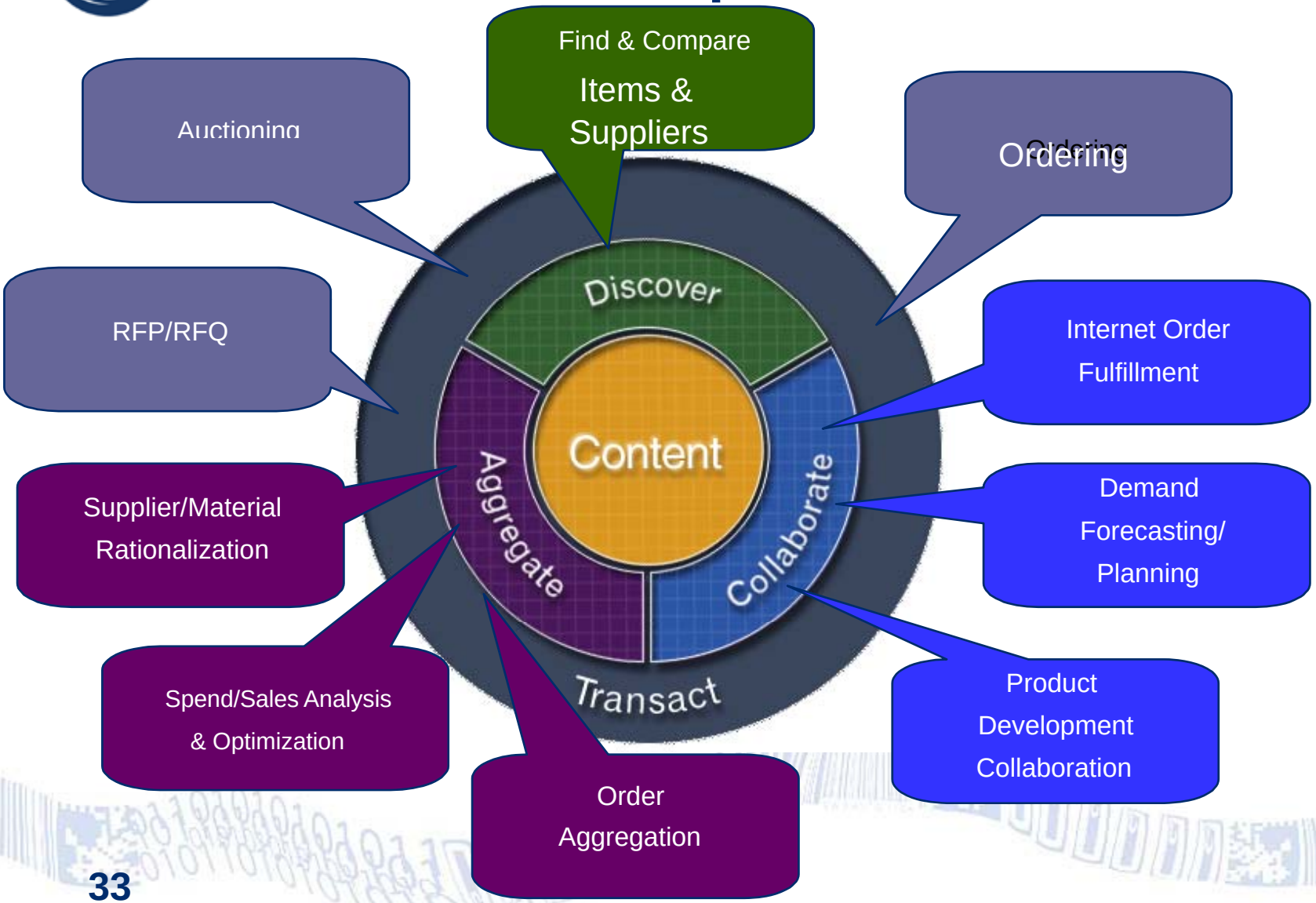
Supply side Product Database

Trading partners synchronising master data can rely on the information in their database

Height
Width
Depth
Weight
Items per case
Cases per pallet
GTIN

Demand side Product Database

Why is Master Data Catalogue (Content) Important?



Solid Base of Standards in Place

Business Messaging Standards	Trade Item Synchronisation	Extended Attributes
Package Measurement Rules	Cataologue Item Synchronisation	Data Quality Framework
Data Pool Certification	Price Synchronisation	Global Product Classification and more …

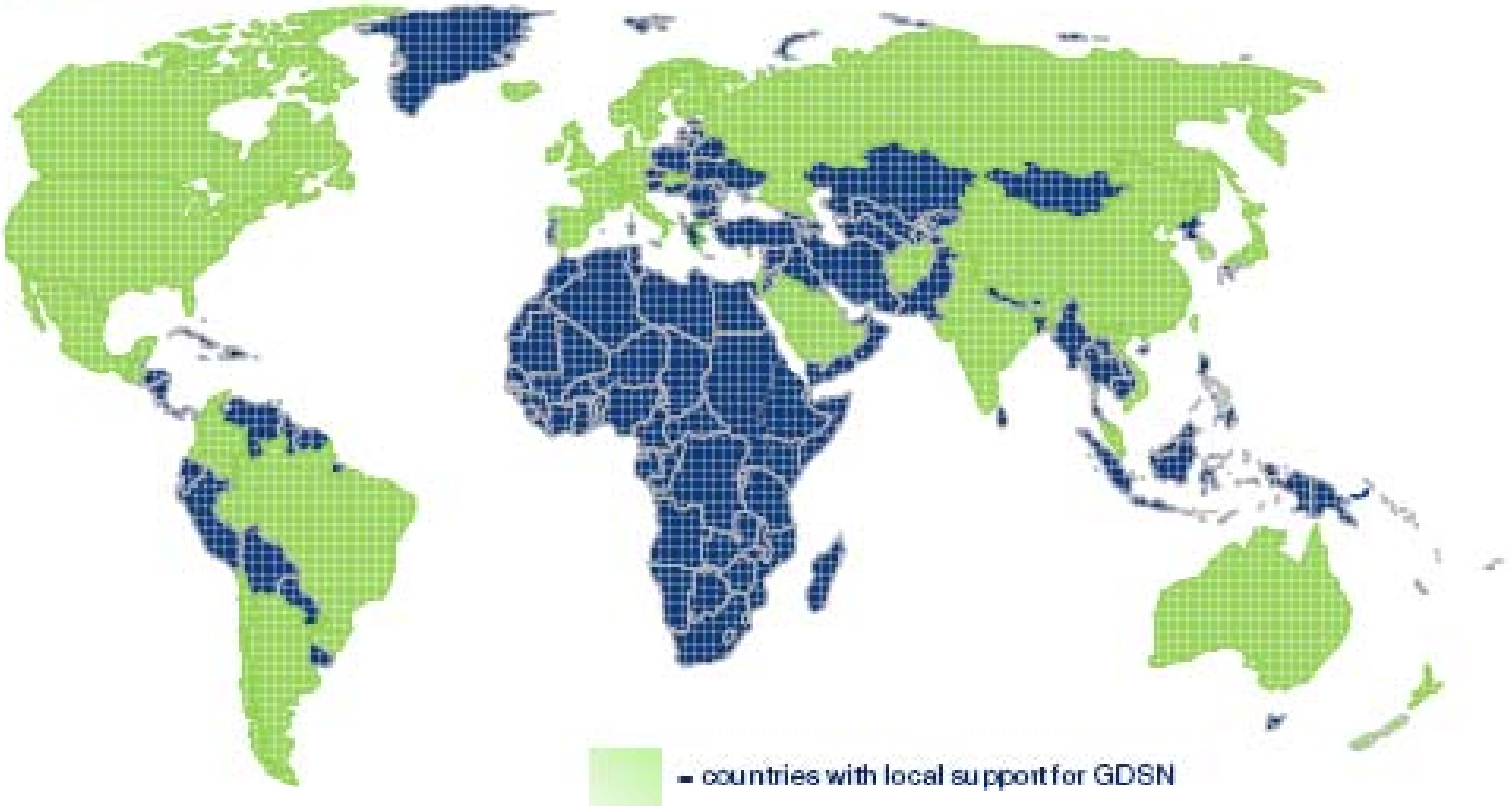
Solid base of Standards and Guidelines in place to build a reliable Master Data Management programme

Increased Adoption Momentum

Trading Partners:
from **200** in 2005
to **15,561** in 2008

Certified Data Pools:
from **7** in 2005
to **23** in 2008

Broad Geographic Coverage



Global Reach – Local Reach

Local support for GDSN in 50+ countries

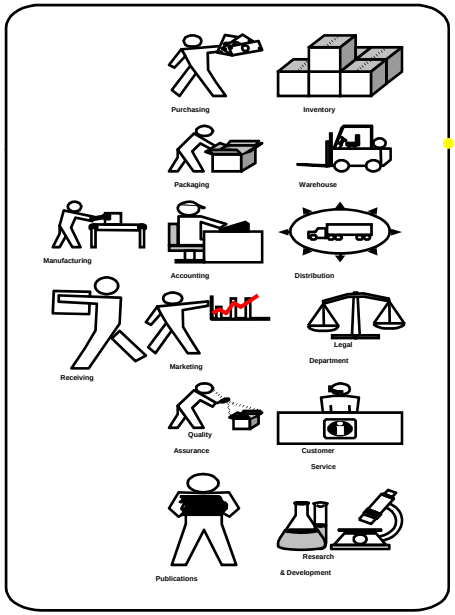
Global Product Classification

GDSN uses GS1 GPC

- Ensures products are classified correctly and uniformly
- Gives buyers and sellers a common language for grouping products in the same way, everywhere in the world

Why Address Classification at all?

Selling Organizations



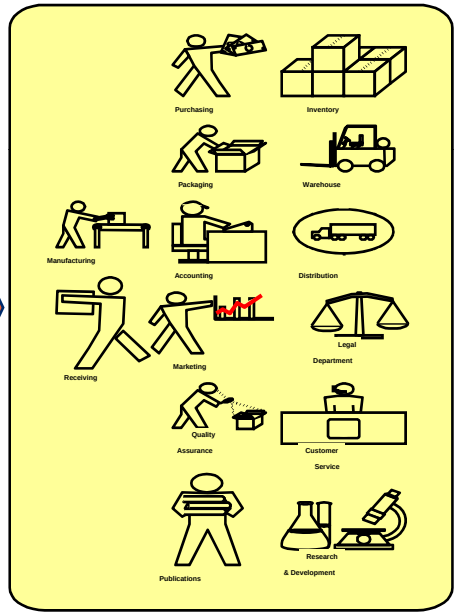
Many functions, different classification needs

Map Internal Product Classifications

GS1 Industry Classification Standard(s)

Map Internal Product Classifications

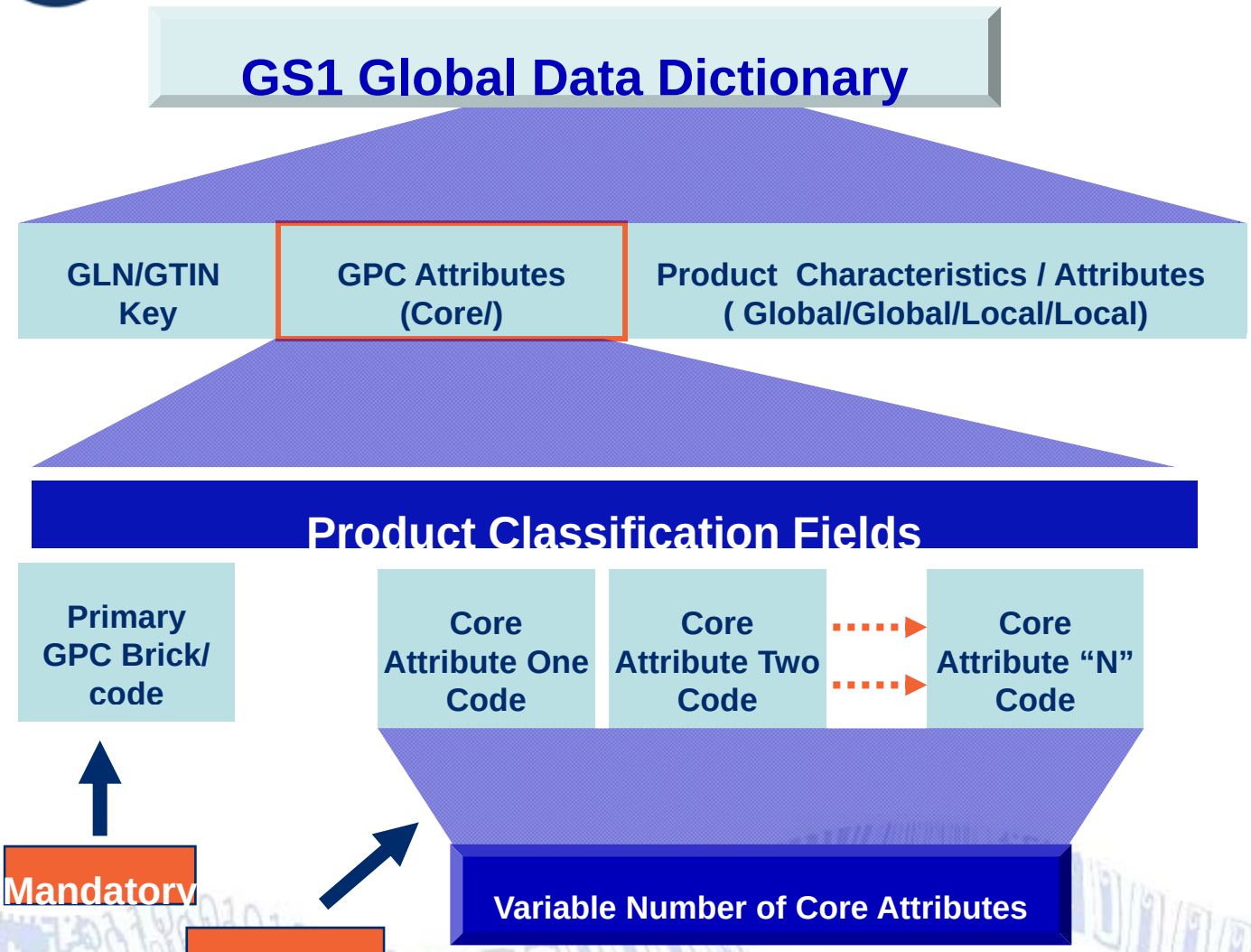
Buying Organizations



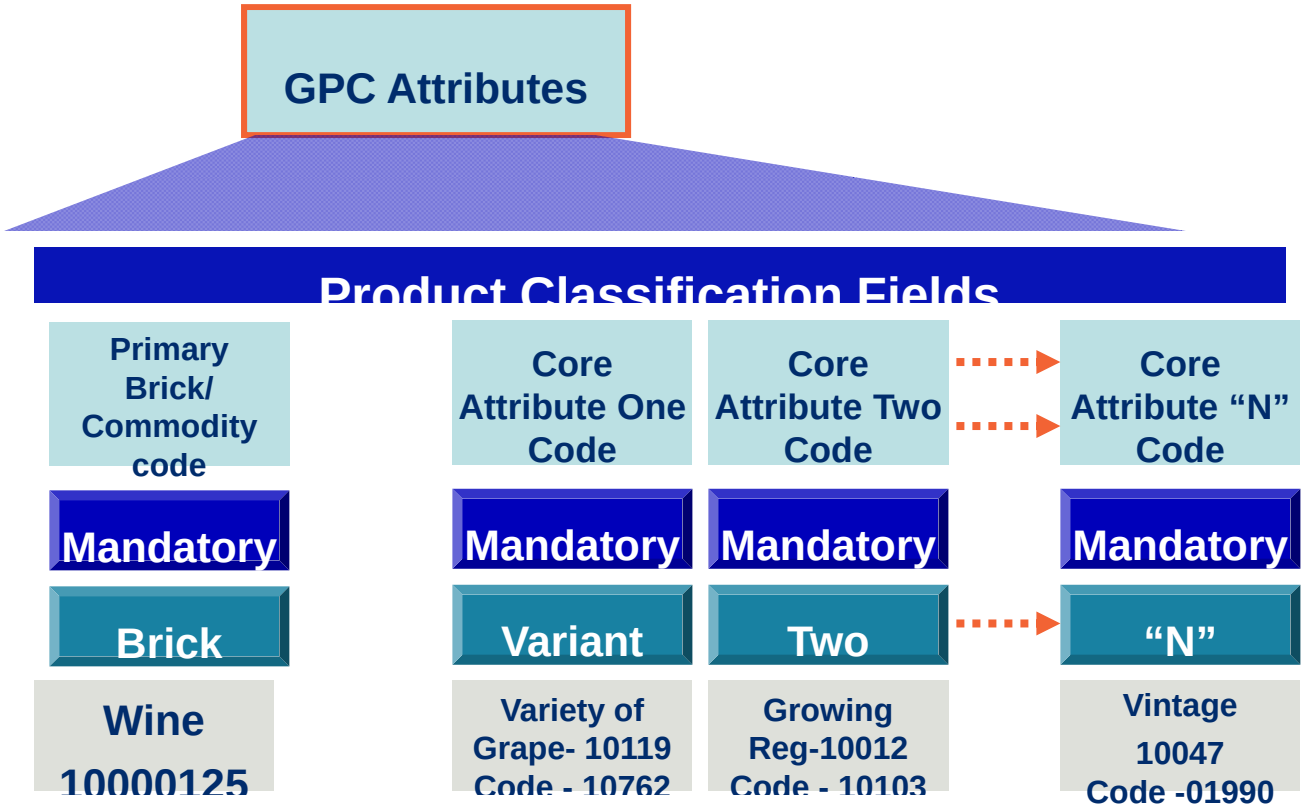
Sellers need flexibility to profile products in multiple views and align to internal classifications without compromising own systems.

Buyers need to align products to multiple internal classifications structures (Buyer, Merchandiser, Logistics…)

GDD Data Structure



GPC Selection / Search Example



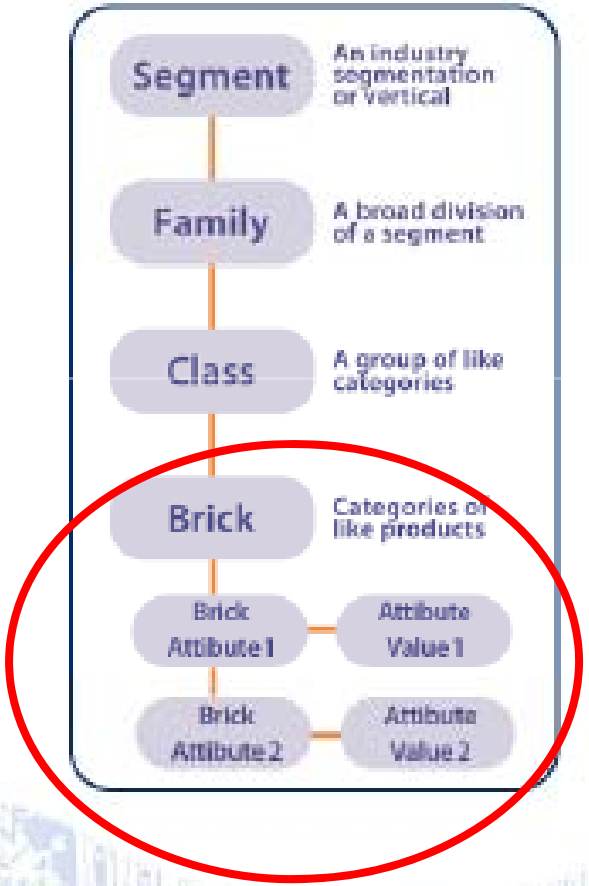
Select all Wines or Select all Chardonnay or Select all Californian or

Select Only Wines – Chardonnay , California, 1990 Vintage

GDSN GPC Bricks

The foundation of GPC is called a "Brick"

- Defines categories of similar products
- Ensures the correct recognition of the product category across the extended supply chain
- Bricks can be further characterised by Brick Attributes



GPC and UNSPSC

UNSPSC is a global, multi-sector classification system supporting primarily spend analysis and procurement

Under the leadership of the user community, GS1 is **aligning GPC with** another classification system managed by GS1 US, the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code - **UNSPSC**.

Interoperability has already been established; the associated mapping tool will be available in Q4 2008

- **A new GPC release published to GDSN in September '08 ('As at 31 May 08') in 36 categories**
- **GPC On-line Browser and Finder**

  http://gpcbrowser.gs1.org/

  - search and browse in 5 languages for all components (codes, names and definitions) of the current GPC schemas
- **GS1 LEARN online program - GPC Basics**
- **GS1 Classification Strategy developed**

GPC Direction

Continue to maintain GPC system (categories, updates, support in GDSN)

Continue alignment / mapping to UNSPSC

Develop GS1 Global Classification Strategy

- Considering other key classification systems
- Widely and uniformly adopted across all GS1 MOs

Leverage GPC structure to support context-driven approach with the Global Data Dictionary and GDSN Item Model

GS1 website

www.gs1.org

Contact Details

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INTERNATIONAL TRADE DATA SYSTEM
The Single Window to More Secure, More Efficient Trade
ITDS

PRODUCT INFORMATION COMMITTEE

DICTIONARY CAPABILITIES PROFILE

NAME OF DICTIONARY: **GS1 Global Product Classification (GPC)**

NAME OF DMO: **GS1**

CONTACT PERSON(S): **Art Smith, GS1 Canada**

I. SCOPE OF PRODUCT COVERAGE:

How long has the dictionary been in use?

The GPC system of standard classification codes, business rules and attributes went live for intial use by the Food & Beverage sector in 2003.

What industry sectors use this dictionary as their first choice for defining essential product characteristics?

GPC was Sponsored and Developed by Global Retail Sector as one of the four building blocks to the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) – Global Data Dictionary for Product & Location (GDD), Global Product Classification (GPC), Global Registry (GR) and Business Relationship Data Exchange.

- Food, Beverage, Tobacco
- Home Care, Health Care – Retail Pharmacy (including over the counter part of (Health Care), Pet Care, Pet Food, Baby Care, Beauty Personal Care and Hygiene
- Clothing, Footwear, Personal Accessories
- General Merchandise (Furniture & Furnishing, Kitchen Merchandise, Musical Instruments, Toys & Games, Stationery, Audio & Visual, Communication, Computing, Printed & Reference Materials, Sports & Well being, Arts & Crafts, Outdoor & Camping)
- Hardlines /
    - DIY (Lawn & Garden Supplies; Building Materials, Hardware; Tools & Equipment Hand; Safety & Storage; Electrical Supplies; Plumbing; Heat,Ventilation,Air Conditioning)
- Automotive Aftermarket
- Home Appliances

Describe the strength of the dictionary in characterizing products using the separate page titled “Coverage by Product Set.” *Enter “S” for Strong, “M” for Moderate, and two dashes (--) for incomplete or no coverage.*

II. DEPTH OF PRODUCT CHARACTERIZATION:

What hierarchy is used to organize and locate product classes?

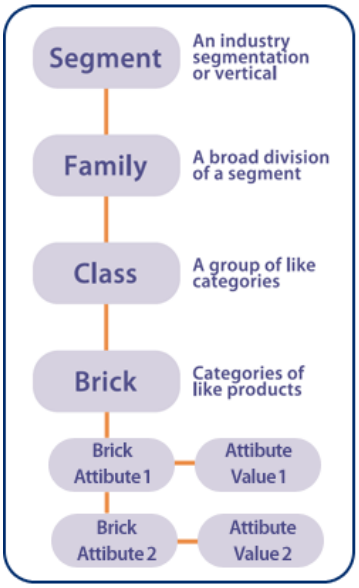
The Key Structural Component of the GPC is the Lowest Level called the Brick. The business rules and definitions of the GPC Brick have been designed to enable users to assign every product bought and sold to a unique GPC Brick.

In the world of buying and selling products, each buying organization and selling organization typically has its own proprietary Merchandise Hierarchy and schema for buying, merchandising, and selling products. The Brick designation (and its corresponding attributes) was designed to allow each organization to map the Brick into their respective internal proprietary Schema.

Having said that, the primary purpose of GPC is not a Hierarchy. In order to group the Bricks in standardized framework, GS1 users have defined the need for a 4-level hierarchy to identify all products from their segment (industry vertical) down to the category (brick) level. These levels include: Segment, Family, Class, Brick.

At the Brick level, additional attributes can be defined to provide further grouping capability. For example, in the still wine category, wines can be further grouped by colour.

Where necessary, standard values can be defined for individual attributes. Again, in the wine example, standard values for colour can be defined (red, white, rose).



The detailed product description characteristics are further defined with standardized attributes (GDD) in the specific product master data record.

Can each product class be represented by a short numeric product code?
Yes, all bricks are represented by an 8 digit code.

Does the dictionary support the use of attribute or property value pairs to further describe product classes?
Yes. At the Brick level, the dictionary also supports the standard definition of product attributes and their (standard) associated values.

Is there a limit on the number of product classes in a hierarchy? The number of attributes supported? The number of values supported for a single attribute?
There is no limit on the number of product classes (bricks) or attributes or values that can be represented in the hierarchy. At this point in time, GS1 users have identified the need for a maximum of 7 attributes for a given brick code.

III. LEVEL OF DICTIONARY ADOPTION:

For what use does the industry typically use the dictionary – spend analysis, category management, product sourcing, etc.?

The GS1 GPC is the common language of business that enables business around the world to map their internal product codes to a standard hierarchy. The primary use case for GPC was designed for Global Master Data Synchronization (GDSN). GDSN in turn was seen as the foundation for Global Supply Chain E-Commerce. The GPC standard hierarchy supports the following supply chain functions:

- GS1 Global Data Synchronization (GDSN)
- New product introduction
  - used by buyers and sellers to classify new products
  - used in conjunction with other GS1 identication keys (i.e. Global Trade Identification Number to identify products, Global Location Number to identify business entities and their locations)
- Product sourcing
- Category management
- Product Development
- Procurement (Auctioning, Ordering, Demnand Forecasting)
- Market Research
- Global cross-referencing
- Global product characterization

What languages/tongues does the dictionary support?

English, French, Serbian, Japanese, and Hungarian (Spanish, German, and Russian are coming up)

What indications of active industry adoption and use are there? What level of use is seen for each region of the world?

Use of GPC codes is a mandatory data attribute for products being registered to the GS1 Global Product Registry. Currently, over 3 million products have been added to this Registry. The Registry is used by businesses throughout the world.

Provide examples of how the dictionary is being used in international trade and what companies are using it.

The foundational use of the dictionary is in support of the global exchange of product information, using (GS1) standard industry protocols. This business process is called Global Data Synchronization. It is used by the majority of multinational companies in Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG), retail, grocery, hardlines and general merchandise across five continents – currently over 15,000 companies – to mange the introduction of new items. All products must be characterized by a GPC code.

The product data needed to support Global Data Synchronization is being used by manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and distributors.

IV. LEVEL OF INDUSTRY SUPPORT:

How many supporting and/or voting members does the DMO have?
More broadly, GS1 is a member organization with a global membership in excess of 1 million user companies. GS1 serves users in 150 countries through a network of 108 local Member Organizations.

GS1 administers a Global Standards Maintenance Process (GSMP) across a broad range of standards . GS1 prides itself as a user-driven process.

- GS1 Identification Keys, (for example used to support 5 Billion Barcode Transcations per day around the world across 22 sectors)
- GS1 ECOM / EDI Transaction Standards (working with X12 , Edifact)
- GS1 GDSN Standards (GDD, GR, GPC) for Global Data synchronization
- Electronic Product Code (EPC), Radio Frequency Tags, EPCglobal Network Standards to Support Global Real Time Tracking and Traceability

GPC is a part of the GSMP with discipline on standards maintenance procedures and voting processes. In the specific GPC Steering Committee that has a governance role, there are 15 voting members, and 50+ supporting members. There is also dedicated technical team that assesses each change request with recommendations.

Typically what companies and industry sectors are the DMO's leaders and subject matter experts drawn from?
Subject matter expertise is drawn from user companies in those sectors which are implementing the GPC standard and dictionary, such as CPG, retail, grocery, hardlines, and general merchandise by companies such as: Ahold, Best Buy, Carrefour, Wal-Mart, Target, J&J, P&G, Unilever, L'Oreal. Implementors may be from mature sectors such as food & beverage, or they may be from sectors preparing for implementation, such as Healthcare.

Currently 36 industry sectors have or are contributing to the GPC standard.

What improvements or expansions are planned?
Ongoing maintenance and expansion of GPC codes will continue in step with the needs of new and existing industry verticals. This includes the on-going mapping / alignment with the UNSPSC product classification system.

Presently the needs of the global medical-surgical industry are under review as a potential candidate for GPC. The Global Heathcare User Group (made up of 24 of the top 25 global suppliers) are evaluating 25 of the Global Classifications used around the world to determine a direction for the industry. No decision has been made on GPC engagement.

V. CHANGE REQUEST PROCESS:

Describe the Change Request (CR) Process?
See Appendx 1

How many CRs were submitted and processed in the past 12 months?
1200+

How many times in a year do you update the dictionary?
Change Requests are processes ongoing. Formal publication of the GPC Standards occurs twice annually.

What are the eligibility requirements to submit a CR? May government entities submit CRs?
Any user may submit a CR. Companies are asked to get sponsorship from a GS1 member organization in their respective country. Government entities that are GS1 members may submit a CR.

What are the eligibility requirements to vote on CRs? How many vote on a typical CR?
There are 15 voting member votes (See Appendix 1)
There are two types of Change requests with different procedures attached – Simple Requests (language, minor definition enhancements, clarifications, Attribute value additions) and Complex Change request which must go through full evaluation process.

What is the average time to: Revise the definition for a commodity or attribute value; Add a new commodity attribute (if applicable); and Add a new commodity?
Complex Change request on average- 30 days

VI. LEGAL RESTRICTIONS ON USE:

Is all dictionary content in the public domain?
Yes. GS1 standards are open to all users.

What agreements must an organization sign to use the dictionary?
None. GS1 standards are open to all users.

What limitations exist on the use of the content?
None. GS1 standards are open to all users.

Is the DMO a not-for-profit organization?
Yes.

Does the DMO meet the definition of a voluntary consensus standards body as defined by OMB Circular A-119? A voluntary consensus standards body is defined by the following attributes: (i) Openness. (ii) Balance of interest. (iii) Due process. (vi) An appeals process. (v) Consensus, which is defined as general agreement, but not necessarily unanimity, and includes a process for attempting to resolve objections by interested parties, as long as all comments have been fairly considered, each objector is advised of the disposition of his or her objection(s) and the reasons why, and the consensus body members are given an opportunity to change their votes after reviewing the comments.

Yes.

VII. BARRIERS TO INDUSTRY PARTICIPATION:

What barriers might limit mid- or small-size companies from using the dictionary content?
None. Access is open to all users, anywhere in the world. Local GS1 Member Organizations are in place to assist local users with implementation.

VIII. ELECTRONIC ACCESS:

What electronic methods exist for accessing dictionary content (e.g., transfer of data files, web service real-time inquiries, etc.)?
A web browser service can be accessed from the GS1 global website. The browser provides User support in 5 languages and enables companies to search the entire product hierarchy.

A download facility enables Users to copy product hierarchy information into their local computers.

What data format can the dictionary content be provided in (e.g., XML, Excel spreadsheet, delimited file)?
The download facility supports XML, Excel, and Word formats

How frequently could data files be obtained?
On demand, any time; no restrictions.

What security controls are used to safeguard data integrity and to protect against unauthorized electronic access?
Update access is restricted to authorized GS1 staff. There is centralized governance with regards to rules compliance, electronic access on a public domain, etc. Visitors to the GS1 website are limited to read-only and download functions.

What ISO standards for formatting and transferring data (e.g, ISO 8000 and 22745) do you currently comply with or plan to comply with?
No current plans, but could be considered.

IX. COST OF RECURRING ACCESS AND DATA TRANSFER:

What fees are charged to industry members to use the dictionary content? Please describe these fully and especially in terms of:
-Start up or “initializing” fees;
-Connectivity, system interface, or testing fees;
-Fees that are assessed by file size or have volume boundaries;
-Fees assessed by number of requests or access frequency;
-Monthly overhead or minimum usage fees; and
-Any other fee or charge categories and their basis of operation.

GS1 standards are open and royalty-free to Users around the globe.

X. DATA QUALITY:

What web site support tools, training, or other assistance is available to industry users who wish to define their products using the dictionary?
Changes to the dictionary can only be affected through the GS1 Global Standards Management Process. See Appendix 1.

There are also other resources available such as:
Get started: http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/gdsn/gpc
Resource library: http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/gdsn/gpc/library.html

How can industry users be certain they are properly applying dictionary terms when defining their products?
GS1 GPC ruleset provides unique placement for product categorization; GS1 GDD provides product property description.

SUMMARY:

What are the strengths of this dictionary?

- GS1 standards are open and available to Users globally
- The combined product categorization and nomenclature system
- All GS1 standards are developed through the direct involvement of users; a highly disciplined and robust open-governance process ensures data integrity
- The GPC standard is aligned with UNSPSC
- The dictionary is currently capable of supporting 36 industry verticals
- The dictionary is used in conjunction with GS1 global identification keys (Global Trade Item Number and Global Location Number)
- Global reach through a network of 108 GS1 Member Organisations
- Have leading position within identification standards / solutions market
- Credibility especially within retail sector, support from major businesses
- Positioned to provide the 'bridge' between trading partners

What are the weaknesses?

- The biggest weakness is that this standard is tied to the rollout success of GDSN. The full value of GPC will only occur when each product listed for sale is assigned to a GPC Brick. There are currently 40 global data catalogues (data pools) certified in the GDSN Network.
- Built up geographically and organically rather than strategically.
- GPC positioned as a technical solution to map products.

General Remarks or Comments:

GS1 GPC and GS1 GDD together represent a global categorization system and product description dictionary.

COVERAGE BY PRODUCT SET

(See Section I)

HTS SECTION	PRODUCT SET	COVERAGE *("S"=Strong; "M"=Moderate; "–" = No Coverage)*
Section 1	**Live Animals; Animal Products**	M
Section 2	**Vegetable Products**	S
Section 3	**Animal or Vegetable Fats, Oils, and Waxes**	S
Section 4	**Prepared Foodstuffs; Beverages, Spirits, Vinegar, And Tobacco**	S
Section 5	**Mineral Products**	--
Section 6	**Chemical or Pharmaceutical Products**	M(pharmacy)
Section 7	**Plastic and Rubber Products**	--
Section 8	**Leather, Fur, Travel Goods, and Handbag Products**	M
Section 9	**Wood, Cork, and Straw Products**	M
Section 10	**Wood Pulp, Paper, and Paperboard Products**	M
Section 11	**Textile Products**	S
Section 12	**Footwear, Headgear, and Umbrella Products**	S
Section 13	**Stone, Plaster, Cement, Asbestos, Mica Ceramic, and Glass Products**	S
Section 14	**Pearl, Precious or Semiprecious Stones, Precious metals, Imitation Jewelry, and Coin**	M
Section 15	**Base Metals and Base Metal Products**	--
Section 16	**Machinery, Mechanical Appliances, Electrical Equipment, Sound Recorder and Television Products**	S
Section 17	**Vehicles, Aircraft, Vessels and Transport Equipment**	--
Section 18	**Optical, Photographic, Cinematographic, Measuring, Checking, Precision, Medical Or Surgical Instruments; Clocks And Watches; and Musical Instruments**	M
Section 19	**Arms and Ammunition**	M
Section 20	**Furniture, Bedding, and Lamps, Toys, Games, and Sports Products**	S
Section 21	**Works of Art, Antiques, and Collector's Pieces**	S

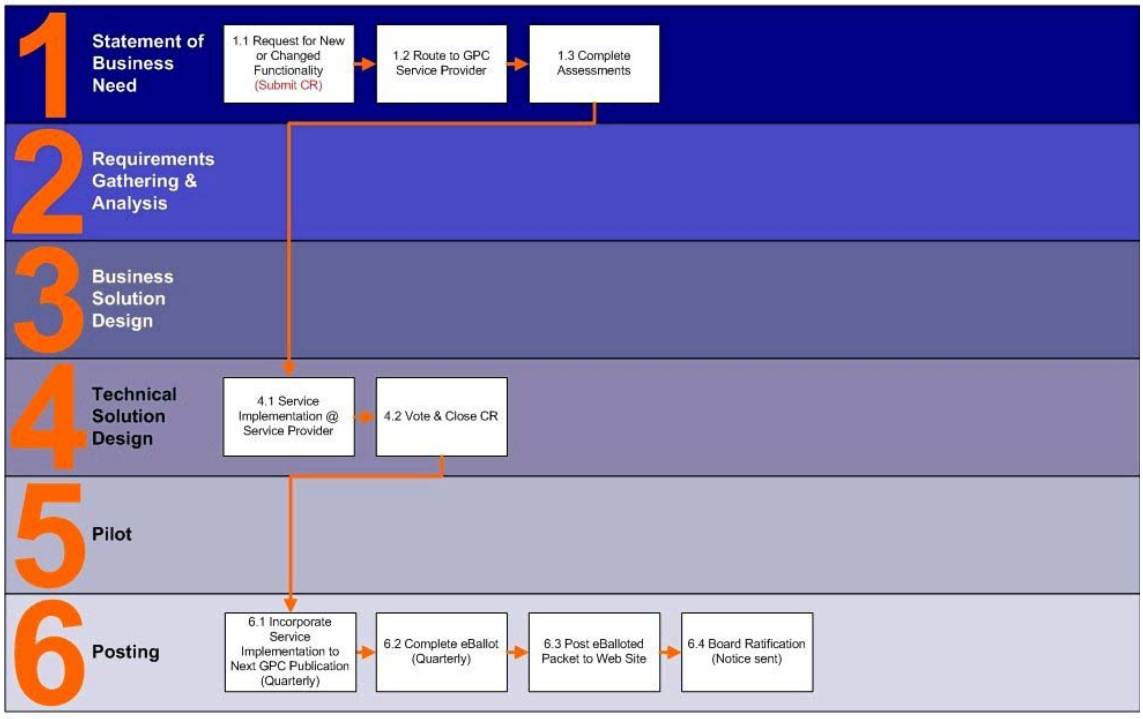
Appendix 1
GPC Change Request Process

Changes to the GPC standards are managed by means of a disciplined and open process. This process is managed by GS1 and is used to manage the full suite of GS1 supply chain standards. This change management process is called the GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP).

Change Requests are considered by subject experts from member companies and consequently represent the needs of Users from all around the global.

All change requests are recorded through a central GS1 website where they are analyzed and routed for detailed consideration. Changes to the GPC dictionary may be deemed simple or complex. A GPC Leadership Committee must approve all changes.

A simple change is one where a value is added to the dictionary to accommodate user needs but has no impact on its structure (ontology). GS1 generates a final version of the proposed resolution that is rules compliant and the GPC Leadership Committee considered it for sign-off. That final version is implemented in the GPC database and published at the following due publication (typically quarterly).



Process Flow Name:	GPC Simple Minor Change (Rules Compliant)		
Process Flow Owner:	Zoltan Patkai	**Version:**	0.2
Process Flow Approver:	Process Group	**Version Date:**	19-04-2006

GSMP – PROCESS FLOWS

GSMP Process FlowTemplate Version 0.1

A complex change is one where there is a fundamental change to the schema to accommodate user needs but has major impact on its structure (ontology). If the GPC Change Request (CR) is classified as a complex change then there are 2 process flows:

Complex Major Change (Non-Rules Compliant or Rules Compliant); and
Complex New Segment.

Complex Major Change (Non-Rules Compliant or Rules Compliant)

- Non-Rules Compliant major change requires GPC Leadership Committee sign-off typically involves complex and comprehensive modifications within the schema due to the level of severity the change it requires.

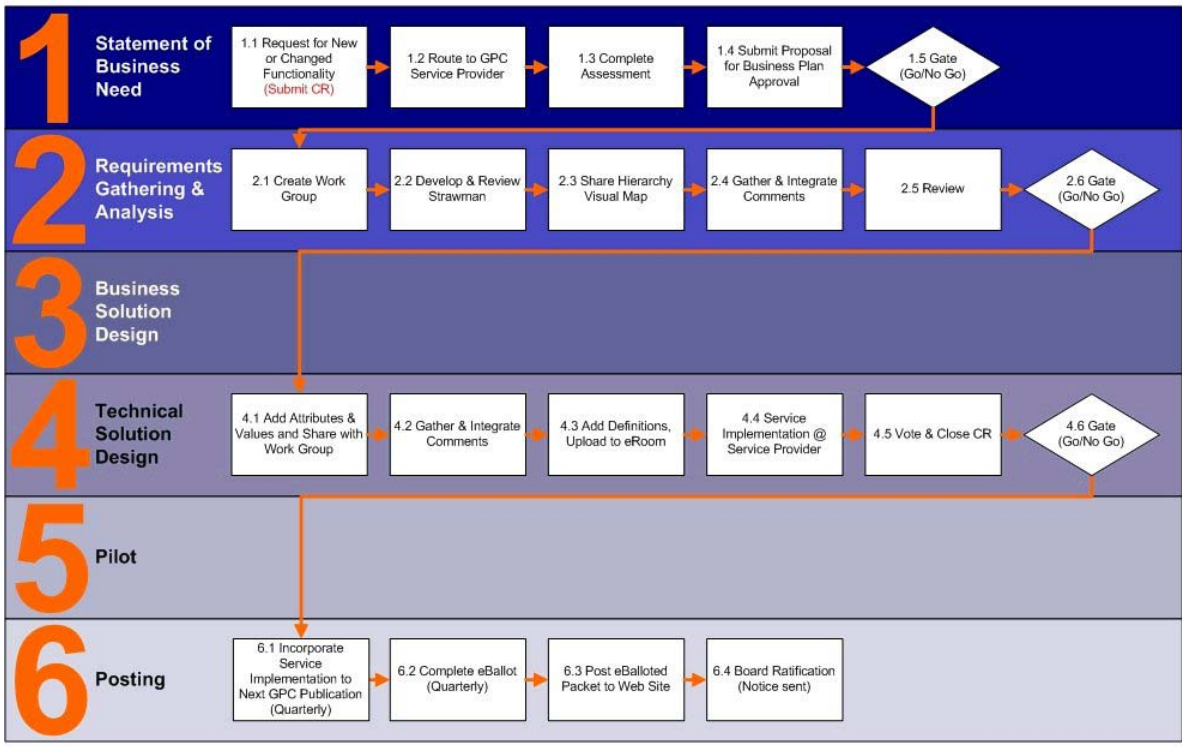
- Rules Compliant refers to all changes that fit the existing rules and principles of the schema, therefore change is legitimate and its implementation can be justified by its compliance to the schema rules

In both cases the following steps are followed:

- Proposal for Business Plan approval
- Service implementation
- CR resolution incorporation into next publication release

Complex Major Change - New Segment
In GPC the new segments are developed in Work Groups and signed off and e-balloted by the GPC Leadership Committee. Key stages:

- Develop and review Straw man
- Share Hierarchy Visual Map followed by comments integration from the public review
- Add Attributes & Values to the Bricks followed by comments integration from the public review
- Add definitions
- Service Implementation
- GPC Leadership Committee eBallot
- Publication (quarterly)



Process Flow Name:	GPC Complex (New Segment)		
Process Flow Owner:	Zoltan Patkai	**Version:**	0.2
Process Flow Approver:	Process Group	**Version Date:**	19-04-2006

GSMP – PROCESS FLOWS

GSMP Process FlowTemplate Version 0.1