

2006 / 2007 Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN) Release and Certification Plan

Dear GDSN Community:

We are pleased to announce the 2006 / 2007 GDSN Integrated Release and Certification Plan. This release plan provides an update to the plan communicated 7 October 2006, and confirms the work completed and planned for completion within this release cycle. It documents new functionality and enhancements to be introduced to the GDSN and the GS1 Global Registry™.

Introduction and Overview

- The Release Plan was developed with input from the Project Leaders, the Architecture Committee, user community and the GDSN Certified Data Pools.
- The plan covers the balance of 2006 and the first 4 months of 2007.
- This Release Plan includes a streamlined certification process, which consists of the following:
 - Mandatory Certification: Minimal requirements for data pools to be interoperable within the GDSN.
 - Optional Certification: Market or customer specific functionality to be implemented by specific data pools as required to support their customer base.
- The business requirements included in this Release Plan have been defined and driven by the user community and the Data Pools that support those users.

User Group Process

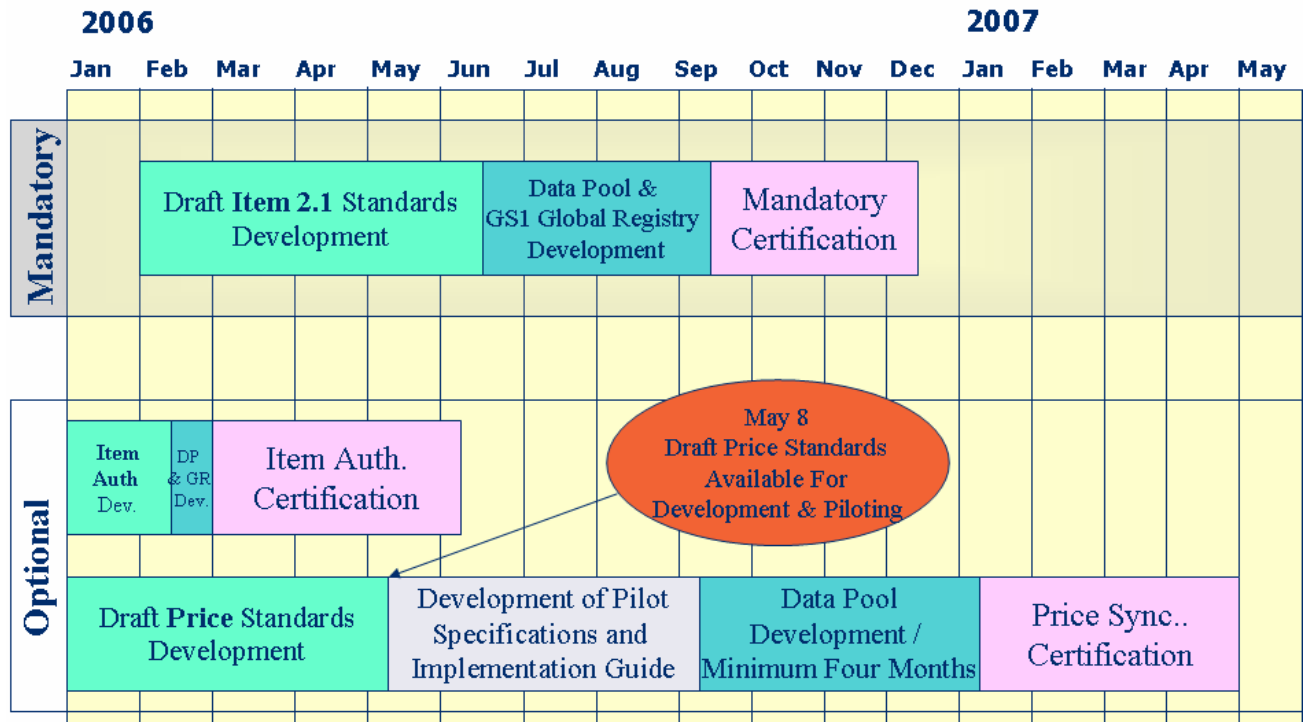
- The business requirements and standards development process consists of projects, each with an assigned champion from the user community.
- Work on the projects continues as long as there is user community participation to define the requirements and supporting standards.
- User involvement, commitment to pilot, and implementation of standards are required in order to complete each project.
- Process gates are used to assess the deliverables and to size the work effort.
 - For example: Draft standards are sized to estimate the development effort required to build the solution in preparation for the Pilot.

For more information regarding this Release Plan please visit the Technical section of the GDSN web site and click on the 2006 / 2007 GDSN Release and Certification Plan.

Link: <http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/gdsn/technical/index.html>

Release Plan and Certification Schedule

Below is the updated release plan showing the certification schedule for both the Mandatory and Optional components.



Below is an update to the projects, functionality and enhancements communication dated 7 October 2005.

Individual Functionality Update

Champion

- Multi Source Dean Foods
 - Standardized process to manage multiple-source suppliers within the GDSN and the GS1 Global Registry™.
 - Status: Standards drafted/available for piloting – champion working with GDSN Inc. to look at a centralized validation approach via the supporting Data Pool.
 - Not scheduled for certification in 2006; will revisit in 2007 cycle.

- New Item Form P&G UK
 - Automate the manual process associated with the introduction of new items.
 - Status: Work completed and incorporated into Extended Attributes process and available for use. White paper published.



GDSN BUSINESS PROCEDURE

- Available in production; no certification required.
- Item Authorization Coca-Cola
 - A business process that authorizes the sale of specific items within a region, sector or store.
 - Status: Standards drafted and the Pilot is progressing as planned.
 - Scheduled for certification in the 2006 release cycle.
- Price Synchronization (Phase 1) PepsiCo & Ahold
 - Develop requirements for synchronizing price information via the GDSN
 - Status: Standards being drafted.
 - Scheduled for certification in this release cycle.

Price Synchronization Key Milestones:

The Price Synchronization project team continues to work to a very aggressive schedule which includes the following deliverables:

- March 31 - Deliver Pilot Scope Statement.
- May 8 - Deliver Price Synchronization Standards (pre-eBallot version)
 - Available for development
- July 6 - Release Pilot Specifications.
- September 12 - Complete Implementation Guide (moved up from October).
- September 18 - Data Pools start development in preparation for the Pilot and Certification Event

The Price Sync project is progressing on schedule. The standards will be available 8 May 2006 for those Data Pools that will start development sooner than the current schedule. GDSN, Inc. will enable a pilot test environment in September 2006.

- Measurement Tolerances – Data Accuracy Wegmans & Conair
 - Develop a standards-based set of measurement tolerances which will be used within the GDSN to ensure accuracy of data with specific product types.
 - Status: Discovery pilot completed. The project team continues to finalize the tolerances for the targeted products.
 - No certification required.
- Extended Attributes (Flexible Fields) Kraft
 - Develop a method to accelerate market or industry specific migration to the GDSN by developing a uniform method to allow non-standard attributes to travel through the network until such a time as they become standard. The project includes a process to manage and prune these additional attributes as required to maintain network performance integrity. The end goal is the standardization of as many

- attributes as needed to maintain efficient commerce transactions.
- Status: Completed. The New Item Form process and the Extended Attributes processes have been combined into a single process which allows non-standard attributes to be communicated through the GDSN. The process is available for use.
- No Certification required.

Global Registry Enhancements

- Global Location Number (GLN) Hierarchy GDSN, Inc.
 - Enable a hierarchical representation of GLN (corporate HQ, regions, divisions, etc.).
 - Status: Feature no longer required due to changes to the GDSN Financial Model. To be reassessed when requirements are available from other projects such as Price Synchronization, Item Authorization and Multi-Source)
 - Not part of this release cycle; will be pursued in 2007.
- Trading Partner Revenue Database Field GDSN, Inc.
 - Create a field in the GS1 Global Registry and supporting systems to capture trading partner annual revenue in support the calculation of Global Registry subscription fees.
 - Status: Changes to the GDSN Financial Model no longer require this feature.
- Transfer of Data Pool GDSN, Inc.
 - Enable system support for transfer of a trading partner from one data pool to another.
 - Status: Manual process in place. Automated approach to be considered in a future release.
- Test Bed Environment GDSN, Inc.
 - Creation of a robust Data Pool test environment for new GDSN functionality and data pool software upgrade testing.
 - Status: Under development in 2006 and expected to be available via the new Rolling Certification process in 2007.
- Centralized Validations GDSN, Inc.
 - Develop a tool to deploy XML Validation rules across the GDSN
 - Status: Being evaluated as part of the Multi-Source solution.

Standards Enhancements

The following Standards Enhancements have been completed or are being developed as part of the 2006 / 2007 GDSN Release and Certification Plan.



GDSN BUSINESS PROCEDURE

- Accept a Reject: Business Requirement Analysis Document approved.
- CIC Response Enhancement: Business Requirement Analysis Document completed. Business Solution Document drafted.
- Errata Fixes: Language Code and Office Supplies completed and scheduled for the May 2006 release.
- Global Registry Deletion Code: Business Requirement Analysis Document in progress.
- Global Product Classification (GPC) Releases: Deploy quarterly release May 2006.
- IsReload Flag: Business Requirement Analysis Document approved.
- Sync List Audit: Business Requirements under development in time for this release cycle.
- Validation Rules: Standard updated with nine new rules to be deployed in May 2006 Release.

Open projects are expected to complete the Business Requirements by 24 March 2006, in order to remain in the 2006 Release cycle.

The following projects will be addressed on a future release.

- Additional RFCIN Requirements.
- GPC Granular Subscription Capabilities.
- Code List Implementation and Enforcement.
- Additional Item Deletion Requirements.
- Target Market Subscription and Publications.

For additional information on Standards Enhancements including Change Request numbers visit the GDSN Task Group eRoom below.

eRoom Link:

http://eroom.uc-council.org/eRoom/facility/AlignDataBusinessModelingGroupBMG/0_3a8ce

For further information please contact Pete Alvarez at palvarez@gs1gdsn.org