

PCN #	PCN Name	Effective Date
08-002	Alignment of EPCglobal Standards with the GS1 System	3-April-2008

## Purpose:

This PCN details the process for how alignment of EPCglobal standards with the GS1 system will be ensured.  
 Note: This PCN is created from the Document, EPC-GSMP Interim Process which was approved by the BCS in May 2007.

## Overview:

This PCN describes the process for ensuring that there is synchronization between the EPCglobal and the GSMP to ensure that EPCglobal standards are consistent with the GS1 system and supercedes all previously defined processes. The recommendation will have the following objectives: to define an effective and expeditious process to ensure alignment of any new EPCglobal standards through the evaluation at the end of the Requirements phase (Step 4 of the Submission track per EPCglobal Standards Development Process version 1.4, Feb. 27, 2008), and the Standards Development phase (Last Call Working Draft (LCWD) as produced as an output of Step 7 of the Standards track per EPCglobal Standards Development Process version 1.4, Feb. 27, 2008).

Additionally drafts of EPCglobal guidelines be submitted to the GS1 Architecture for review. The suggested step would be to share the draft of the IAGs, JWGs or JRGs Guidelines as approved by them and prior to submittal to the EPCglobal Technical and Business Steering Committees. Submission of LCWD of EPCglobal Standards is only provided as a check to make sure that no additional items or misinterpretations of the requirements result in further nonalignment issues.

## EPCglobal and GS1 System Alignment

The goal for this recommendation is to ensure that any new standards developed within EPCglobal are consistent with the GS1 system in a timely and effective manner. EPCglobal develops user requirements within **Joint Requirements Groups**. The process will be to evaluate the requirements and the resulting standards created from the requirements as developed by the EPCglobal Joint Requirements Groups (JRGs) and EPCglobal Working Groups (WGs) vis a vis the GS1 System (GS1 General Specification and Data Dictionary) and should include as documented in the GS1 Architecture Review Committee's Assessment Form :

- Name of EPCglobal Joint Requirements, Standard, or Guidelines document with issue/conflict
- Specific reference to text within the document that illustrates the issue/conflict
- Specific reference to GS1 system component, section of GS1 General Specification or GS1 Data Dictionary that is in conflict
- Impact statement on the component with issue/conflict. This impact statement must make reference to evidence of confusion or difficulty in end user deployment

## Issue Resolution

The first and foremost method to bring up points concerning EPCglobal standards issues will be to participate in the JRGs, WGs, etc. that create any of the reviewed documents. Given the time to create standards, the sooner the JRG or WG knows about potential issues, the quicker focus can be given to deriving an agreeable solution.

To ensure that the EPCglobal standards are consistent with the GS1 system and the GS1 Architectural principles, the GS1 Architecture Group (AG) will help resolve issues with EPCglobal standards as follows:

- Issues may be brought to the GS1 AG by a variety of parties: Working Groups, Joint Requirements Groups, the community, GS1 staff, as part of an appeal to the BCS, the GS1 AG itself, etc. Issues may arise in the interpretation of already published GS1 Architecture documents or Standards, or with new issues not (yet) within the scope of such documents.

- By a two thirds majority vote of those in attendance, the GS1 AG must agree to consider an issue as having sufficient breadth and technical impact to warrant its consideration. The GS1 AG will work to prioritize the issues before it, and to address those of most immediate impact in a timely manner. There will be a database of issues, visible to all GS1 members, maintained in the GS1 AG Kavi area.
- The GS1 AG will act to ensure that issues are evaluated within 15 days. The results or consolidated issues must be sent by the group to EPCglobal representing the GS1 AG's majority opinion using the GS1 Architecture Review Committee Assessment Form and properly recorded in the minutes too.
- **Sub-Committee Formation:** If the Group determines that the issues requires more in depth analysis, then an ad hoc sub-committee may be created for the sole purpose of providing a more in-depth analysis that will be evaluated by the GS1 AG. The sub-committee will be composed of appropriate subject matter experts from or by invited by the AG. The objective of these analyses will be to determine the appropriate path and resolution that will be needed to address the issues. Sub-committees will report to the AG as a whole and have no authority unto themselves.
- Short-term resolutions may take one of the following paths:
  - Requirements, Standards, or Guidelines that have been defined relate to an EPC/RFID technical standard and will continue through the EPCglobal Standards Development Process
  - Requirements are not complete and need to include additional items that will ensure they are consistent with GS1 system.
    - Additional recommendations to the Requirements will come from either the GS1 AG or the appointed sub-committee
  - Requirements relate to a component of the GS1 system that is currently managed via the GSMP and should be moved into that process
  - Requirements that include both EPC/RFID technical components and business application components should be considered by and continue through the appropriate standards development process
  - EPCglobal Standard deviated significantly from the amended Requirements and need to be corrected.
- Resolved issues may result in brief statements of GS1 architectural principle ("findings"), which should later be incorporated into the GS1 Architecture document.
- Brief statements of GS1 Architectural principle or "findings" may be appealed within 15 calendar days of being issued (posted to Community Room for GS1 AG). Appeals are made to GS1 BCS Chair and must include notification to GS1 AG members. The appeal process is not for errata but rather addresses the underlying principle or direction being taken.

