

GSMP Processes Come Unexpectedly Under the ISO 9000 Magnifier – and Passes with Flying Colours!

by Dr Peter Stevens, GS1 New Zealand



Recently an auditor conducting a surveillance audit on GS1 New Zealand tested the quality of processes deployed in the GSMP against the international ISO 9000:2000 quality standard. Reassuringly good news was delivered – processes used in the GSMP passed with flying colours!

GS1 New Zealand is an MO that has an active conformance testing programme as part of its service offerings to its market. Major retailers in New Zealand and Australia require evidence of compliance with GS1 global standards before ranging products in their stores. The most common requirement is a verification report for barcode quality issued by GS1 New Zealand, or a manufacturer's self declaration under an audited accreditation regime.

Clearly, when conformance testing, there is a lot of pressure to ensure that every conformance test is conducted by qualified staff, right first time, every time!

To protect itself and its members, GS1 NZ has for a number of years had been an ISO-9000:2000 Quality Management-certified entity. As part of being certified, GS1 NZ is required to be audited each year for compliance with the requirements of the standard. This year the auditor unexpectedly requested to examine processes surrounding the development of healthcare standards – an area of active interest & participation for GS1 NZ. Of course, this meant that the auditor was actually auditing part of the global HealthCare and GSMP processes!

"One system that deserves specially recognition is that used to determine customer requirements, both stated and not stated. The development of the Health Care Business requirements was provided as an example. The use of international Working Groups, Internet services and international telephone meetings are all used effectively to identify client's requirements and best practices, as well as minimising the risk of errors while developing the product. GS1 should be commended for their progress in this area."

Richard Saul,
Lead Auditor for Telarc SAI Ltd

The comments from the Lead Auditor should be pleasing, and reassuring to all members of GS1 - GSMP contributors especially. Well done!

Should we progress ISO 9000 more broadly within GS1?

A question left unanswered is whether the GSMP, or even GS1 as a whole, should seek an external, recognised certification for its standards development quality management processes?

Perhaps more importantly, as we move into highly regulated sectors such as healthcare, chemicals and food safety there is an expectation of regulators and other stakeholders that trusted partners have certified quality management programmes in place. It would be almost unheard of for any national standards body not to be at least ISO 9000 certified – should we be any different?

GSMP will be looking into expanding its quality processes across these additional sectors.

EPCIS Data Exchange Work Group Continues to Improve the GS1 GDD

by Brian Bennett



The GSMP EPCIS Data Exchange Working Group has been formed to harmonize the values exchanged in the EPCIS Business Vocabulary and the GS1 Global Data Dictionary (GDD). It represents EPCglobal's first GSMP sponsored work group and

brings together experts from both Standards Development Organisations. Once finished, the efforts of this group will result in EPC compliance to the GS1 GDD, a significant milestone in the alignment of EPCglobal and GSMP.

To date the group has looked at the following EPCIS Business Vocabularies: Business Step, Disposition, Site Sub-Location, Site Sub-Location Attribute, and Business Transaction. These code lists were compared to and evaluated against the GS1 XML attributes including those in the GDSN, the code list values used in those attributes, and the GS1 Glossary.

The analysis has led to changes in both directions: into the GDD and back to the EPCglobal as a result of the findings of this group.

Now that the harmonization is over, the group is focusing on an implementation guide and inclusion of the Core Business Vocabulary into the Global Data Dictionary.

If you are interested in participating in this Work Group please contact Brian Bennett at brian.bennett@gs1.org.

Price Sync Implementation Guide - A Long, Long Journey

by Tom Heist



The *GDSN Price Synchronization Implementation Guide* has now been posted to the GS1 Knowledge Centre. Thanks to the persistence of the Implementation Guide Team and the leadership of Nadine Radomski of Dean Foods Company, the final

step in the journey of synchronizing price in the GDSN has come to a successful completion.

The critical task for Nadine and her team was to prepare an implementation guide that would correctly align with the GS1 System standard that was approved for pilot testing and the initial certification event for Data Pools. While this may sound easy, the dynamic environment surrounding price synchronization offered many challenges. Not only was price synchronization a new reality, the template and style guide for writing the implementation guide was brand new and the implementation guide development process in GSMP had just been rolled-out.



"A seemingly insurmountable task is quickly conquered by a talented and focused team."

Nadine Radomski,
Dean Foods

Accepting the challenges the team remained true to their task and the document now provides the benchmark for new trading partners and the point from which enhancements from lesson learned can be applied.

The *GDSN Price Synchronization Implementation Guide* is available from GS1 knowledge Centre at: gs1.org/services/gsmg/kc/gdsn/index.html

For more information on this project, please contact Tom Heist at tom.heist@gs1.org.

GSMP Local Community Network (LCN) Brings A Critical eCom Decision To Light

by Melanie Kudela



One of the many benefits LCN is its ability to allow GSMP Groups to gather information from a wide cross-section of trading partners in the far corners of the globe. Nowhere has this benefit been more evident than in

a recent Change Request, where the eCom BRG made a decision to leverage the power of LCN to obtain much needed recommendations on Restricting Characters in an EANCOM Document Number.

The original Change Request was created to remove a recommendation to restrict Document Identifier in all EANCOM messages. Responses from the LCN community indicated polarized user community in several MO's and that while it may sound mundane, this change turns out to have a significant impact. These divergent responses amongst the various LCN countries made it evident to the eCom BRG that the issue required further discussion and that no decision would be made until after the eCom physical meeting in Brussels. This kind of "validation" of the work in GSMP and the ability for GSMP groups to "reach out" to the locals from around the globe is exactly what LCN is all about!

About LCN:

The number of Local Community Members (LCN) keeps growing and now stands at 174 members from 8 countries. Our new members come from Europe, North and South America, Australia and New Zealand. The Local Community Network (LCN) provides the opportunity for trading partners who don't already participate in the GSMP to become engaged in the GS1 standards development process.

We encourage all who are interested in learning more about LCN to attend the GSMP Event in Brussels where there will be an LCN Lunch-and-Learn on Monday 14-April. Find out why this initiative keeps growing and even more important; find out if LCN is right for you.

For more information please go to the LCN Website at gs1.org/services/gsmg/lcn or contact Melanie Kudela at melanie.kudela@gs1.org.

GDSN Item Futurisation & Fresh Foods Implementation Guidelines Released!

by Mike Mowad



The Trade Item Implementation Guide Work Group has released issue 6 of the *GDSN Trade Item Implementation Guide* - the definitive source on how to implement GDSN data.

This new issue has been updated with implementation guidelines for **Item Futurisation** and the **Fresh Foods** industry.

The Trade Item Implementation Guide work group continues to meet and will be issuing future updates to this document that will cover additional topics such as **Broker/Distributor Model**, **Space Planning**, **Date Fields**, and **CIC Response**.

The group is also looking for content experts to lead the development of the following topics; **Tax Fields**, **Extended Attributes**, **BarCodes Attributes**, **Mergers & Acquisitions**, **Description Fields**, **Office Products Attributes**, **Hazmat Attributes**, and **Alcoholic Beverages Attributes**.

The *GDSN Trade Item Implementation Guide* is available from GS1 knowledge Centre at: gs1.org/services/gsm/kc/gdsn/index.html.

For more information or to join this Work Group, please contact Mike Mowad at michael.mowad@gs1.org.



"If we send advance information on changes in item data through the GDSN, some of the implications might not be obvious. This Guide aims to make it possible for any trading partner to understand exactly what they can do and the impact it has. As with all of the GDSN standards, if we implement them consistently, then the whole community benefits with lower adoption costs and, ultimately, a more reliable supply chain."

Robin Kidd,
Nestlé

"The meat and poultry supply chain, like most of the perishables, faces unique challenges in data synchronization. The GDSN Fresh Foods Implementation Guidelines are an excellent tool for a company just starting data sync – they provide a snapshot of the material attributes needed to synchronize perishables, and possible."

Blake Ashby,
Meat and Poultry XML



"The GDSN Fresh Foods Implementation Guidelines will add value to the Fresh Produce sector in several ways. While the guidelines focus on the specific characteristics of our product assortment, it also provides information to allow readers to more easily get started with GDSN now. That's a big plus for the average Fruit & Vegetables trading company. The guidelines will also help to convince our trading partners that GDSN for Fruit & Vegetables differs from FMCG, but it works just the same."

Harry Geelen,
Information Manager at the Greenery

Modular Item Work Group Continues Improving the GDSN Infrastructure

by Grant Kille



In this article we will review the efforts of two of the Modular Item Work Group's sub-teams; the **End State** Sub-Team and the **GDD Review** Sub-Team.

End State Sub-Team

The End State Sub-Team was formed to develop a methodology to transition the structure of the Item Data Model to be more context-sensitive (product, geopolitical, regulatory, etc.).

A draft proposal was completed which defines attribute Class Characteristics, Business Rules, and development methods.

(continued on next page)

Feedback from the community so far has been very positive, and concerns regarding implementation have been addressed.

The Business Requirements document has been completed and the draft proposal (which was presented in January at the GDSN Orlando meeting) will be in public review during the month of April.

GDD Review Sub -Team

The GDSN BRG has submitted and approved 12 new Change Requests (CR) which will support improvements to the existing core Item message, movement of several Fast Track attributes into the Core Item model, and elimination of redundancies in several extensions.

An additional project is underway to transition all of the **Fast Track** and **New Item Form** interim standards attributes into permanent solutions. To date; 45+ attributes have been approved.

For more information on the Modular Item Work Group please contact either Grant Kille at gkille@agentrics.com or Jean-Luc Champion at jeanluc.champion@gs1.org.

GSMP Builds the Foundation for Collaboration in the Hardlines Industry

by Donna Liotta, AHMA



Recognizing the need to bring industry trading partners together to improve the efficiency of the entire supply chain, GSMP and the American Hardware Manufacturers Association (AHMA) have teamed up to benefit the Hardlines and Consumer Electronics communities by establishing a GDSN compliant method of sending marketing and other attributes through the network and securing global support for standards in the Hardlines community.

In a pilot program, AHMA was trained in the GSMP processes and procedures and is now leading the Hardlines community effort in compliance with the rules set forth by GSMP.

AHMA is running a bi-weekly conference call within the GDSN BRG that is looking at Hardlines attributes that are not currently transmitted through the GDSN network. This work will enable more complete product data to be sent electronically without utilizing proprietary, non-standard methods of communication between trading partners, which ultimately will result in cost savings for all trading partners.

Successful implementation will also increase adoption of the GDSN within the Hardlines and Consumer Electronics verticals.

Major Domestic Appliances were chosen as the first GPC product line to be addressed by the Hardlines & Electronics Attributes Initiative (HEAI) group.



"The Hardlines & Electronics Attribute Initiative (HEAI) is critical to the long-term success of both retailers and suppliers. With the continually increasing penetration of electronic selling tools – both online and in the store – selling attributes and images have become some of the most important data we collect. The HEAI effort will allow our supplier partners to pass us this information along with their core GDSN data, increasing efficiencies and sales for all."

**Michelle David Adams,
Lowe's**

To date work has been successfully completed on CRs covering clothing washing machines; clothing drying machines; cookers, ovens, warmers, ranges and microwaves; and refrigeration and freezing appliances.

During three days of meetings at the April GSMP meeting in Brussels, the group will continue to work on attribute harmonisations surrounding Computer and Video Games, Major Domestic Appliances, and Fashion Plumbing. The goal for the meetings in Brussels is to complete the attribute work on several product lines in preparation for public review. The overall team goal is to get as many CRs as possible through the e-ballot process and ready for implementation with the next applicable maintenance release, and then continue the process for attributes to be included in future releases.

It should be noted that the collaboration between AHMA and GSMP has been mentioned in Forbes and US Industry Today;

Forbes Article:

<http://www.forbes.com/businesswire/feeds/businesswire/2008/01/24/businesswire20080124005576r1.html>

US Industry Today Article:

http://www.usitoday.com/article_view.asp?ArticleID=NR2220

For more information on this important collaboration, please contact Donna Liotta at dliotta@ahma.org.

GSMP Rocks the GS1 Forum!



GSMP Membership Update

The new GSMP membership model continues to flourish. Please join us in welcoming this quarter's new members to the GSMP:

Name	Company Affiliation
Kristin Andersen	Wegmans Food Markets
Zsolt Bócsi	GS1 Hungary
Jeff Bornino	Kroger Co (The)
Ton Bosman	Schuitema NV
Hitesh Brahma	GS1 India
Miriam Burke	Procter & Gamble Co.
Luis Camargo	GS1 Colombia
Jasmine Chew	RosettaNet
Kim Combs	Sara Lee
Laura Davidson	GS1 Canada
Christine Evans	J M Smucker
Frédérique Fremont	C.H.I Robert Ballanger
Mark Frey	EPCglobal Inc.
Mike Furi	The Grocery People Ltd
Pierre Georget	GS1 France
Omar González	GS1 Mexico
Hein Gorter de Vries	GS1 Netherlands
Sven-Gustaf Lindroos	GS1 Finland
Dennis Harrison	GS1 US
Séverine Herve	GS1 France
Pawel Kazmierczak	GS1 Poland
Rachel Kairuz	GS1 Australia
Dominik Kupisz	GS1 Poland
Chrstian LAPORTE	GAZ DE FRANCE
Eileen Lisk	Cadbury Schweppes
Courtney Marshall	Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Mary Lou McCleese	Johnson & Johnson
Mike McGee	L&M Companies, Inc.
Cecilia Melby	Clorox
Alice Mukaru	GS1 Sweden
Paul Nutter	GS1 UK
Lisa Wheatland	1SYNC
Alan Newton	A. Duda & Sons, Inc.
Marco Oliveira	Softlimits
Micheal Page	Commport Communications
Elizabeth Plant	Taranaki District Health
Patrick Pointel	Big Hammer Data
Pascal Revenus	SINFOS
Giselle Rosario	GS1 Mexico
David Silcock	Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited (ANZ)
Tracy Satcho	Eaton Electrical
Emilie Sion	GS1 France
Caryn Van Exel	GS1 US
Krisztina Vatai	GS1 Hungary
Akihiro Watanabe	Izumiya Co., LTD
Kathleen Welch	Wegmans Food Markets
Shan Welch	GS1 UK
Rene'e Wellman	GS1 US
Cornelia Willutzki	SINFOS
Jane Wulff	GS1 Denmark

GSMP World Wide Spring Event - Brussels, Belgium 2008!



The next GSMP World Wide Spring Event will take place 14 - 17 April 2008 in Brussels, Belgium.

The registration website can be found at <http://www.gs1.org/services/gsm/news/>.

We hope to see all of you!



The global language of business

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