

New GSMP Live!

The GSMP has undergone a re-structure! The new GSMP will go into effect July 2006. The re-structure was in response to feedback received from the global community and endorsed by the Board Committee for Standards. This was a comprehensive project with changes that included a new GSMP organization, a new governance structure, a new GSMP website, and new GSMP processes and procedures for all global processes and standards (e.g., BarCodes, eCom, GDSN, GPC). As part of the organizational change, a Call-to-Action has been distributed to populate the new groups. Detailed information about the new GSMP is documented in the GSMP User Manual Version 4.3.0 located on the GSMP website. More communications about the new GSMP will follow.

Data Accuracy Tolerance Team Summary

To promote a higher level of data accuracy, the GDSN Data Accuracy Task Force underwent a discovery pilot to determine workable data tolerances for weight and dimension attributes published via GDSN. Ahold, Bush Brothers and Company, The Coca-Cola Company, Conair, General Mills, GS1 US, Kimberly Clark, Kraft, Minute Maid (division of The Coca-Cola Company), PepsiCo, Inc., P&G, Quaker/Tropicana/Gatorade (division of PepsiCo, Inc.), Safeway, and Wegmans were members of this Pilot, funded graciously by FMI and GMA. By improving the accuracy of the data flowing through the GDSN Network, recipients can more readily use the data in their supply chain and inventory management systems, thereby enhancing the value of GDSN participation.

The task force is currently drafting language to submit a Change Request to the GS1 Package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment within the GS1 General Specifications. The request is designed to allow 4 percent for data tolerances in weight and measurement at the case level for the tested packaging types to be defined as accurate data. For hard and medium packaging at the consumer unit level, the team will recommend a 0.25-inch data tolerance. The team plans to reassess the business impact of these proposed tolerances in 18 months to see if adjustments are needed.

The next steps will be to bring the results formally into the GSMP process, utilizing the new Work Group concept. This process will include a public review period where the community has an opportunity to comment. For more details, please contact Alan Hyler at ahyler@gs1us.org.

Implementation of GS1 eCom Standards in 2005

Quite often companies considering implementation of eCom standards ask GS1: Who else uses them? Will we be the first ones to try or is there some experience already available somewhere?

GS1 has the intention to help these companies address these questions. One related initiative is an annual survey. In April, a report of the annual survey in 2005 was published. This report provides an overview of the implementation of both EANCOM and GS1 XML standards in GS1 member countries in the year 2005.

The EANCOM standards appear to be far from being replaced by the XML technology. Out of nine new countries that reported the implementation of eCom standards, eight reported that this newly used (or newly reported) standard was EANCOM.

The implementation of the GS1 XML standards is mostly driven by GDSN. However, the number of companies implementing transactional (order-to-cash) messages is constantly increasing.

The detailed report is available on the GS1 website at <http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/ecom/xml/implementation/>. Any comments are welcome and can be sent to Ewa Iwicka at ewa.iwicka@gs1.org.

Mark Your Calendar: 1st GSMP Kick-off Webinar

Join us Thursday, 13 July 2006, from 9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. EDT/3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. CET to receive firsthand information regarding the new GSMP.

Further details will be communicated shortly

GS1 GSMP Item Authorization Pilot

By Dave Grissom, Coca-Cola Company

Item Authorization is defined by GS1 as the act of granting permission to sell or deliver an item at a specific location or group of locations.

The purpose of the GS1 Item Authorization pilot is to define an item authorization message set that will provide the framework for retailers to accept or reject items at a single location or a group of locations. The Item Authorization Business Message Standard has been created and the goal of the GS1 Item Authorization pilot is to validate the standard and the usability of the standard from a business process perspective.

The item authorization process will facilitate the linkage where suppliers can deliver a product to a retailer's store and who will be paid for the product. Item authorization could be triggered by either trading partner (supplier or retailer) depending on the buying and selling relationships of the trading partners.

The item authorization message does not replace normal item synchronization but rather works in concert with a normal Catalog Item Notification (CIN) message for item synchronization. The Item Authorization message set is all about retailer authorization of a previously synced item. The message set also includes functionality to de-authorize an item.

The pilot that completed in early June included supplier participants from Cadbury-Schewppes, Coca-Cola, Dean Foods, and Pepsi. Retailer participants included Publix and Walgreens. Data pools involved in the pilot were 1Sync and Agentrics. The Drummond Group also participated with the Item Authorization pilot in the role of certifying the data pools that complete the piloting exercise. 1Sync and Agentrics will participate in functionality certification of GS1 Item Authorization administered by The Drummond Group.

GSMP World Wide Fall Event Philadelphia 2006!

The GSMP World Wide Fall Event will take place 23 – 27 October 2006 at the Sheraton Society Hill Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A block of rooms has been contracted for 160 USD (breakfast not included). The registration website will be available on 11 August 2006 at <http://www.gs1.org/philadelphia2006/>.

GSMP/GDSN Standards Enhancements

By Christopher VanTine, GXS

Several GDSN process enhancements have been completed this year by the GDSN Task Group for inclusion in the next Network Release. They are:

- **Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC) Response**

This process enhancement allows for the transmission of additional information from Retailer to Supplier regarding issues with the Item information. It eliminates the need for the retailer or supplier to call or email to understand the issue. Furthermore, this change should dramatically improve the speed to bring suppliers into GDSN and reduce the amount of manual support required by data pools and retailers.

- **IsReload Flag (Initial Item Load)**

This process enhancement communicates that an Item is not new to the retailer, but it is the first time the item information has been sent to the retailer through the GDSN. Initial Item Load (IIL) could also be referred to as Synchronizing Previously Known Items. When configured properly it allows the retailer to route the item appropriately within their workflow to compare against an item already in the database that had been created manually. This is in contrast to New Product Introduction, which is the initial communication about a product not previously traded between the supplier and retailer. The solution was built as a documentation change only, meaning the schemas were unchanged. Since this clarifies the difference between a new item and one that is being synced for the first time, this enables companies with pre-existing items to more easily join the GDSN.

- **Discontinued Lifespan (Global Registry Deletion Date)**

This enhancement allows for different retention periods for reuse of a GTIN number after the item has been discontinued. For example, the standard for most product types is 48 months, where the standard for Clothing, Footwear, and Personal Accessories is 30 months after the product is no longer manufactured. This is due to the enormous number of GTIN's associated with these product classes and the shorter period of time they remain in the supply chain. The time period is defined by the GPC standard. This process update allows for certain GTINs to be recycled to other products once discontinued in the Global Registry.

GSMP Completes Fresh Foods Solution for GDSN

In 2005 Ahold, Wal-Mart, and Carrefour submitted a Change Request to enable variable measure products to be synchronized in the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN). Since the work has particular interest for those with "Fresh Foods" products, the standard became known as the Fresh Foods Solution. The requirements set forth in the Business Requirements Analysis Document (BRAD) have been successfully met and the team has confirmed the solution in place. Following are quotes from some of the original team members regarding the importance of this GSMP Solution.

For more information on the Fresh Foods Solution, contact Cameron Green at cameron.green@gs1.org.

"Pre-packed variable weight items are a significant group in our supermarkets. It includes products like meat, cheese, fish, and deli that we receive pre-packed from our suppliers. With this solution we will be able to include this important group of products in the roll-out of data synchronization at Ahold."

Marcel Yska, Royal Ahold

"Data synchronization has been a challenge for the meat department. The initial standards were focused on fixed weight center of the store products, and so many retailers deferred synchronization of meat and poultry and other perishables. But with the continued refinement of the standards, mpXML's members recognized that data synchronization for variable measure products was now practical. In the first quarter of 2006, mpXML's members were able to successfully complete a Data Synchronization Pilot of variable measure meat and poultry items using the GDSN. The retailers were able to successfully receive Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) Messages from the producers for variable measure meat and poultry products for both the Item and Case level. Figuring out how to do variable measure products is a significant step toward extending data synch to the whole store. Hopefully, other perishables will be able to build on the work done in meat and poultry to further their own synchronization efforts."

Blake Ashby, mpXML

GSMP Group News

The groups within the GSMP continue enhancing the standards in order to provide solutions to support business in the user community. Following are some of their key activities:

Align Data Business Requirements Group

- Over the last four months, the Align Data BRG has developed its strategy for implementation guidelines. These guidelines are primarily aimed at replacing the Business Requirements Documents that are no longer maintained, and thus, to provide guidance on how to use the Item attributes. Implementation guidelines based on use cases will also be produced (e.g., fresh food or multiple net contents).

Deliver Business Requirements Group

- In the area of logistics, Shippers will at times, request spot rates from a carrier to support an immediate business need. Shippers also work with 3rd Party Logistics Providers or Payment Services Providers to rate a group of shipment for payment and/or freight auditing. In today's environment, this typically occurs by telephone call or in a system-to-system scenario using proprietary formats. The Deliver Team has developed a global standard for the support of motor carrier rate requests/responses. With this message the global community will benefit from having both a standard solution and the ability to realize a quicker start up and adoption of the standard.

Information Technical Requirements Group (ITRG) and eCommerce Global Implementation Forum (ecGIF)

- The ITRG members are currently migrating to new groups under the re-designed GSMP. The ITRG has performed an invaluable service for GSMP and their dedication, commitment to quality, and technical insights are deeply appreciated. We look forward to their continued support in their new roles within the GSMP Process.
- The ecGIF will transition into the eCom Technology Group (eTG) as part of the new technology center. The ecGIF is currently assessing next projects, including the possible creation of a Standard Business Document Header (SBDH) Guidelines document.

This newsletter was written and produced by Holly Calhoun, GS1. holly.calhoun@gs1.org +1.937.428.3753. All texts, images and graphs © GS1 2005.

Pay Business Requirements Group

- Pay has quickly responded to requests from the Upstream Pilot Team to incorporate key attributes that were discovered as missing during the preparations for pilot testing. The revision to the Upstream Invoice will be available to support a successful pilot test.
- Collaborative Receipt Settlement (CRS) is a business solution that will build upon price synchronization and move the accounts payable and accounts receivable processes forward in the overall business process to permit payment claims to be resolved before payment. The CRS solution, after two years of study and development, is in the final steps of review and will be available early this summer.

Physical Technical Requirements Group (PTRG)

- PTRG has approved a Change Request that clarifies the use of Unit of Measurement in the Package Measurement Rules for data alignment. This CR assists in providing a common methodology for determining product package measurements.
- Additionally, PTRG has approved the definition of a Consumer Trade Item for the retail channel.

New GSMP User Manual

The GSMP Re-Organization Team has met over the last several months to create a new version of the GSMP User Manual. This new user manual provides all of the details, which are relevant for the user. We have taken the opportunity to improve the readability and layout of the manual. The manual was posted for a two-week public review, and following the public review, the team resolved all comments and updated the manual. The GSMP User Manual has been sent to the BCS for final approval. In the meantime, this version is currently available on the new GSMP website at www.gs1.org/gsmf/. The GSMP Re-Organization Team extends their thanks to everyone who provided comments.



The global language of business