

GS1 Standards Management Event Barcelona 2006

The GS1 Standards Management Event will take place in Barcelona from Monday, 3 April until Friday, 7 April. This year in Barcelona, the emphasis is on the global collaboration of the entire GS1 Community.

Highlights of the event include over 30 working sessions and 6 workshops where individuals will discuss key topics such as the GSMP Restructuring Plan, GS1 Standards Documentation, Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN), Global Product Classification (GPC), Traceability, and Upstream Standards.

For those who may be new to GSMP, a GSMP Newcomers Introduction Session will also be offered. The session will provide an introduction to GSMP within GS1 and an overview of the resources and services linked to this methodology. At this time, delegates will receive valuable information about GS1 and GSMP, learn about the processes and the different standard areas, receive an explanation of the support facilities as well as the re-organisation itself, and get recommendations for attending the most useful workshops for newcomers.

More information regarding the GS1 Standards Management Event, including the detailed programme of events, is available at <http://www.gs1.org/barcelona2006/>.



Evolution of the GSMP

Four years ago the Global Standards Management Process was launched. When it began, the process served predominantly the CPG/Grocery Industry. Since its inception, new industry sectors have come to GSMP for solutions: Food Service, Hardlines, Apparel, etc. The solutions, which were derived through GSMP, are now part of implementations in GDSN (in the form of industry extensions) or AIDC (in the form of new GTIN rules, packaging rules, etc.).

During the last several months, the GSMP review committee has made a number of recommendations on making the GSMP process reflect the changing needs of the community engaged within the process. These changes have been unanimously supported by the GS1 Management Board. We look forward to further discussions in Barcelona on the revisions coming to the Global Collaborative Forum (GSMP).

Reading and Viewing Software Tools for GS1 XML Standards

The GS1 XML standards have become more mature since they were first published in 2001. Their technical quality is much higher now and they cover more business processes. These are, among others, the main reasons why their implementation is constantly growing.

This growth attracted the interest of both European and US software companies who provide tools that facilitate the implementation of various EDI standards. Two of those companies, GEFEG from Germany and Oakland Software from the US, developed tools allowing viewing and navigating through the GS1 XML message set version 2.0.2. Both tools are currently available for free and can be downloaded at:

- GS1 XML 2.0.2 Reader:
<http://www.gefeg.com/en/edifix/reader-gs1-xml.html>
- GS1 2.0.2 Viewer:
<http://www.oaklandsoftware.com/product-gs1/viewer.html>

What are they for?

The GS1 XML 2.0.2 viewing tools assists users in understanding the structure of the suite of schemas, relationship between them, etc. They can be described as a map of the schemas, helping users to decide which Implementers Packets they need to download and what they contain. In addition, the tool allows individuals to view the sample instance files and example values.

For user companies that are evaluating the GS1 set of Business Message Standards, these tools provide easy to use and clearly arranged means of information on the content and the structure of the standards. They help to determine which portions of which messages need to be implemented in given business processes. The use of such tools allows for significant reduction of time necessary to understand and implement GS1 XML standards.

What do they cover?

Both of these tools are based on the GS1 XML standards version 2.0.2. Because the speed of GS1 XML standards development is very high, some new or updated messages may have been published and are not contained in the Reader and the Viewer. However, the structure of the messages is not changed during the updates of standards, so the tools can still be used to analyse their content. To determine which are the newest versions suitable for development, users should reference the GSMP website at http://www.ean-ucc.org/global_smp/gs1_xml_standards.html.

What is its relationship to other GS1-XML related documentation?

The GS1 XML Reader and Viewer can be seen as part of the set of documentation supporting the implementation of the GS1 XML standards. Part of this suite of documentation is already available including the technical user guide, which explains the design used to construct the standards (versioning, message architecture, etc.), the AS2 implementation guidelines, and the Standard Header specification. These can be downloaded from the GS1 website at <http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/ecom/xml/implementation>. Additionally, the detailed GS1 XML Implementation Guide, containing all of the available documentation of the messages and an explanation on how they fit in the business process is currently under construction. The first part of this guide is planned to be available in May 2006.

New System Aimed at Supporting the Implementation of GS1 Standards

During the implementation of GS1 standards, user companies may encounter various difficulties related not only to the technical infrastructure, but also to the level of understanding of the standards, availability of the documentation, or sometimes to mistakes in the published material.

This situation raises many questions that need to be answered, but whom should you contact? The GS1 Global Office staff provides support primarily to the Member Organisations. This does not mean that the user companies are also not contacting them. All of the requests submitted by users, which are related to the local issues, are forwarded to the respective Member Organisations. The MOs are best positioned to help these companies with their knowledge of the local market, legal regulations and, of course, the language. If the local MOs have difficulty in resolving their user's problems, they are supported by the Global Office staff.

You may locate your respective Member Organisation at <http://www.gs1.org/contact/worldwide.php>. Here you will find contact details of the 101 Member Organisations, which represent 103 countries.

Questions submitted by the MOs on behalf of their user companies are used by the Global Office support staff to create new documentation such as website updates, implementation guidelines, user manuals, etc. They also create and maintain the set of FAQs, which can be found at <http://www.gs1.org/helpdesk>. This system is also partly interactive. Each FAQ and its answer can be rated as very satisfying, satisfying, or dissatisfying. It is also possible to submit a comment to the individual FAQ. Both the rating and the comments are reviewed periodically and are used for further improvements, creating new FAQs, rearranging various sections of the GS1 website, etc.

Our ambition is to serve our customers to the best of our ability and to constantly improve our service. As always, your feedback is essential in helping us to achieve our goal.

GS1 Sweden's Karina Duvinger Named as TBG17 Liaison

As part of GS1's effort to work more closely with other standards bodies, the role of United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) International Trade & Business Procedures Group (TBG17) Harmonisation Liaison within GS1's Business Process Modeling Team has been created. This is an official position within the GS1 Global Business Process Modeling Team, which reports to the Director of the Business Process Modeling Team. We are very happy to announce that Karina Duvinger of GS1 Sweden has agreed to accept this role in addition to her national responsibilities.

The purpose of TBG17 is to be responsible for consistency and harmonisation of business process models and core components across business domains and sectors, contributing to a concise and well-defined glossary of business terms, business data semantic definitions, and structuring of data exchanges.

This position will require Karina to liaise with TBG17 and to lobby for GS1 standards to become part of the UN/CEFACT standards as well as influence the nature of these infrastructural standards so that they are suitable for use with the GS1 System. Additionally, the position should help to provide a deeper connection to UN/CEFACT emerging technologies and their impact on existing and future GS1 standards.

This is another great example of how GS1 Global Office and Member Organisations are working together to better address the needs of our community by representing GS1 in the global community. The GS1 Organisation and the Global Office are indebted to Bo Raattamaa, the CEO of GS1 Sweden, for supporting the mission of standards development.

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Announcing GSMP's New Quality Assurance Manager

On 27 February 2006, Christian Gillon joined the GS1 Global Office as GSMP's Quality Assurance Manager reporting directly to Regenal Kramer, Manager of Central Operations. Christian's responsibilities include managing and overseeing Quality Assurance (QA) for GSMP (e.g. QA procedures, metrics, document control). Christian comes from the consulting world and has accumulated over nine years of QA experience at Capgemini, PwC and IBM. He is married and the father of a two-year-old daughter who will soon be joined by a little brother or sister. Outside work, he manages to play some golf when weather permits. Please join us in welcoming Christian to the GS1 Community.



Christian Gillon, Quality Assurance Manager, GS1

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 Requirement Group

- Continual process improvements from the GDD Fast Track, including the delivery of over sixty-eight new attributes
- Expanding the GDSN Community by defining the solutions to onboard the Footwear Industry, Fresh Foods, DIY Germany/Austria, and others
- Now that the GDSN Data Solutions for the Consumer Packaged Goods (CPG) industry have been implemented, Align is responding to user needs to bring clarity and consistency to global implementations. To do this, Align has launched an initiative to develop the definitive implementation guide for the use of the GS1 Item Standards.

Deliver Business Requirement Group

- In the Global Supply Chain, material flow has become increasingly complex as products leave a shipping location in one continent, are routed through another continent, and arrive at a location in a third continent. The team is working on the improvement of the Despatch Advice to accommodate cross docking to facilitate this flow of goods.

Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN) Task Group

- Recently, the GDSN Board has recognised that a migration to a global standard within GDSN requires a short-term plan to support non-standard data within the Network. The GDSN Roadmap therefore includes the Extended Attribute Initiative. The technical solution is available today in the Network and is being used by trading partners. The team is now working on a data management process for a “total GDS item attribute solution” which continually drives us to a common global standard within the Network, while meeting trading partner needs today.
- The price synchronisation team has completed the full requirements gathering and is starting the preparations for the development of the price synchronisation implementation guide as well as the pilot test specification. This moves us closer towards realising one of the greatest perceived benefits of the GDS Network.

Global Product Classification (GPC) Task Group

- January 2006 saw the growth of the GPC to include seven new industry segments: Hand Tools, Power Tools, Kitchenware, Safety and Protection, Stationary, Tool Storage and Workshop Aides, and Toys and Games.
- Coming Soon: Fuels and Power Sources, Automotive Aftermarket, and others

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

- The ITRG has had an outstanding year in 2005 reviewing and casting eBallots on forty-five GS1 XML messages and sixty-four EANCOM Change Requests. Special thanks goes to Alice Agumon, Mickey Atkins, Stef Spaan, and others.
- Global commerce has been impeded by the lack of consistency in electronic communication (eCom, GDSN). ecGIF has recently completed their work on the EDIINT AS2 E-Commerce Transport Communications Guideline to bring a clear and consistent approach to the use of the Global Language of Business. Special thanks goes to John Duker, P&G; Jin Chun, Agentrics; and the extremely supportive Solution Provider community members.

Pay Business Requirement Group

- Recently, GCI and GS1 announced the publication of a GS1 Standards solution for the Upstream community. The successful implementation of these standards (which has already occurred and is growing) has led to additional needs. The Pay team is enhancing the invoice to accommodate the lessons learned from these implementations.
- Pay is developing standard solutions to meet the needs of the European Community as it relates to a European Union Value Added Tax. This extension will support the European invoicing process by meeting these legislative requirements.

Physical Technical Requirement Group (PTRG)

- The GS1 General Specifications v7.0 have been published including the implementation of the GS1 Name Change and Branding Strategy in the approved GS Glossary and updates have been made to the GTIN Allocation Rules to include the requirements of the Upstream Industry.
- GSMP was recently approached by the Swiss community to meet healthcare needs for hospitals and public pharmacies. PTRG has enabled a standard solution (Application Identifier for Expiration Date and Time) that communicates critical information for the proper handling, management, and usage of pharmaceuticals bringing improved patient safety.



The global language of business
