

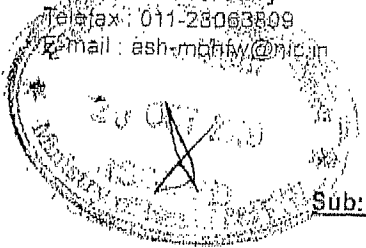
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S/No: 3

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Pl. issued by
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S. J. Jayaram

V. Venkatachalam

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भारत सरकार

स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय
निर्माण भवन, नई दिल्ली - 110108

Government of India
Z-16025/02/08 EPW
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi - 110108

Sub: Use of GS1 barcodes for all medical supplies procured by MoHFW

Dear

The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MoHFW), Govt of India undertakes procurement of drugs, devices and other medical supplies under various programmes by different divisions to ensure their availability at facilities such as sub-centres, PHCs, CHCs / FRUs and District Hospitals, etc. The ready availability of these drugs, devices and other medical supplies at various distribution points is of paramount importance for the successful implementation of programmes / schemes.

It is important to identify all medical supplies in a unique, unambiguous and universal manner besides facilitating efficient management of stocks throughout the supply chain, by tracking and ensuring timely and accurate recalls and withdrawals, when required, management of drugs according to their expiry dates, e-procurement, etc. It has been, therefore, decided to mandate the use of GS1 barcodes on all drugs, devices and other medical supplies procured by all divisions of MoHFW by 1st April 2010 for various programmes / schemes. GS1 barcodes shall need to be incorporated as part of commodity labelling and packaging specifications by all suppliers by the above date.

Programme Divisions need to ensure that latest by start of fiscal year 2010-11 all medical supplies procured under MoHFW should comply with GS1 bar-coding standards at different packaging levels. With immediate effect, all tenders that are issued either by the Ministry or by procurement agents procuring on its behalf should include GS1 bar code standards as one of the mandatory specifications at all packaging levels.

Programme divisions should also ensure that attached offices and procurement support agents involved in procuring health sector goods on their behalf comply with these requirements & orders in this regard should issue accordingly.

Specifications for GS1 barcodes at various packaging levels are enclosed as Annexure 1. For any further assistance required by suppliers and programme divisions, they may approach GS1 India, a standards not-for-profit body promoted by the Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India, at the following contact details:

Shri Gopal Valecha
GS1 India
(under Ministry of Commerce, Govt of India)
330, C Wing, 2nd Floor, August Kranti Bhawan
Bhikaiji Cama Place, New Delhi - 110066
Tel. 011 - 26168720 / 21 / 25 - FAX: 011 - 26168730
Email: gopal@gs1india.org. Website: www.gs1india.org

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All concerned divisions are hereby directed to take action accordingly to ensure compliance by the above date.

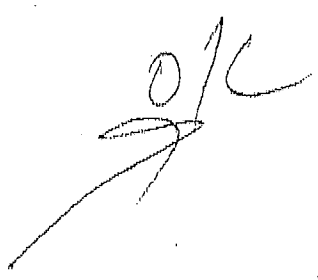
With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



(V.Venkatachalam)

All Joint Secretaries in MoHFW



Annexure 1

Barcoding requirements for all medical supplies:

Section A) Primary packaging (Item level and Monocarton level)

At individual item level (strip of 10 tablets, syrup bottle, injections, vials etc) and/or on its monocarton (wherever applicable), are required to have a pre-printed barcode on its product packaging using either of the barcode symbologies mentioned below:

- a) GS1 linear barcode symbology (EAN-13/UPC-A/EAN-8) to encode GTIN (Global Trade Identification Number) within the barcode.
- Or
- b) GS1 DataMatrix symbology to encode 14 digits product code (GTIN14) within the barcode and using (01) application Identifier (To be used where printing space is extremely limited).

Examples of the same are reproduced at Annexure "A".

All other human readable information on product packaging shall be as required under existing Regulatory labelling & marking requirements.

Section B) Secondary Level Packaging (Intermediate Packaging)

At Secondary level packaging (e.g. box of 10 strips containing 10 tabs each, pack of 10 vials, pack of 10 injections etc), barcode encoding following information to be stickered or preprinted on secondary packaging:

- 1) Product Identification Code (GTIN-14 of secondary pack) using application Identifier (01)
- 2) Expiry Date in **YYMMDD** format using application Identifier (17)
- 3) Batch/Lot Number using application Identifier (10)

GS1-128 barcode symbology to be used to generate the barcode.

Examples of the same are reproduced at Annexure "B".

All other human readable information on product packaging shall be as required under existing Regulatory labelling & marking requirements.

Section C) Tertiary level packaging (Shipper level packaging)

At Shipper level packaging, a single label containing two barcodes needs to be generated and stickered. The barcodes will encode following information:-

The first barcode will contain the following information.

(84)

- 1) Product Identification Code (GTIN-14 of shipper level pack) using application Identifier (01)
- 2) Expiry Date in **YYMMDD** format using application Identifier (17)
- 3) Batch/ Lot Number using application Identifier (10)

The second barcode will contain the following information:

- 1) SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code) using application Identifier (00)

Examples of the same are reproduced at Annexure "C"

All other human readable information on product packaging shall be as required under existing Regulatory labelling & marking requirements.

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Annexure "A"

Examples of Primary Level Packaging

For generation of GS1 barcode at Primary Level Packaging either of the mentioned symbologies can be used, following GS1 General Specifications.

The following GS1 barcode symbologies are available as options:-

- 1) The barcode sample for EAN - 13 barcode symbology encoding GTIN- 13



- 2) The barcode sample for UPC - A barcode symbology encoding GTIN- 12



Note: Both GTIN-13 and GTIN-12 are in extensive use worldwide.

- 3) The barcode sample for EAN - 8 barcode symbology encoding GTIN- 8. (Used where printing space is a constraint).



- 4) The barcode sample for GS1 DataMatrix barcode symbology encoding GTIN- 14. (Used where printing space is extremely limited).



(01)08901107000011

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Annexure "B"

Example of Secondary Level Packaging

The barcode will encode:

- 1) Product Identification (GTIN 14 of Secondary Pack) using application Identifier (01)
- 2) Expiry Date in **YYMMDD** format using application Identifier (17)
- 3) Batch/Lot Number using application Identifier (10)



(01)08901107000028(17)090400(10)ab12345

Annexure "C"

Example of Tertiary level packaging (Shipper level packaging)

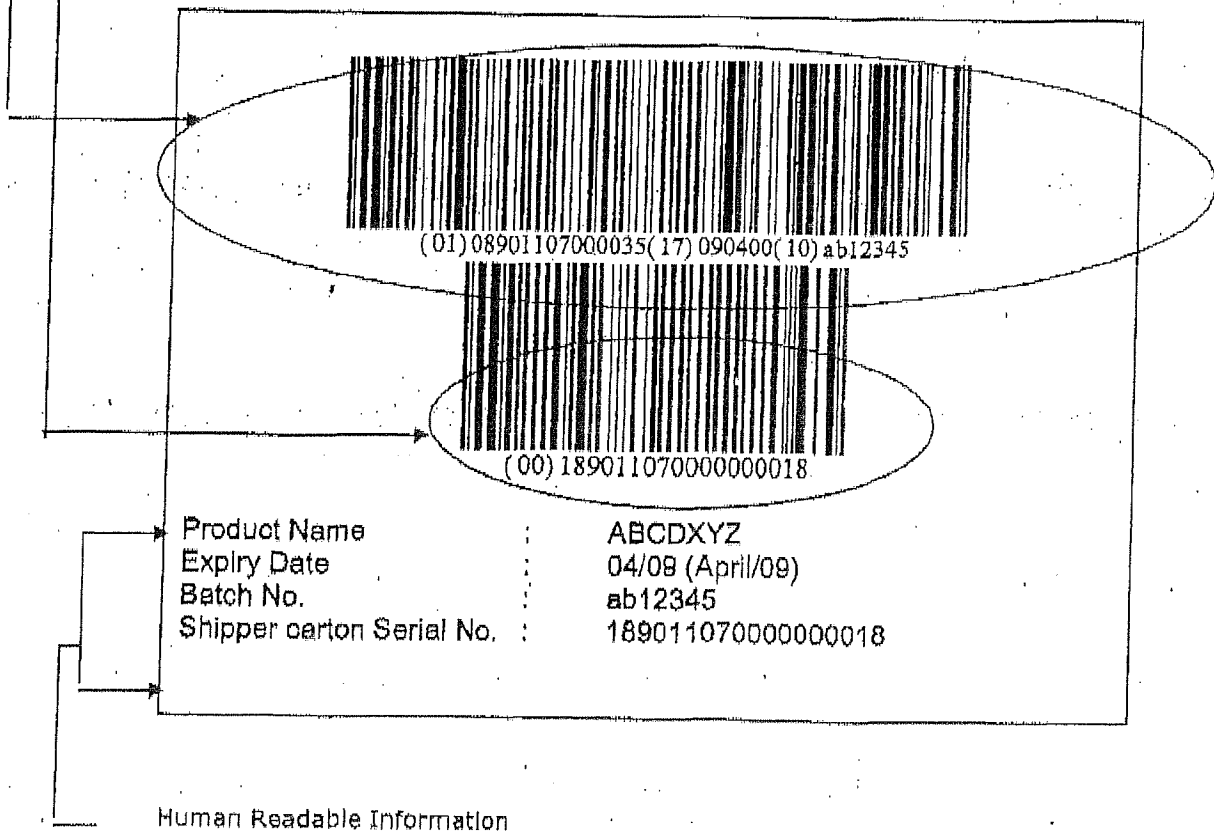
The first barcode will encode the following:

- 1) Product Identification (GTIN 14 of Shipper Pack) using application Identifier (01)
- 2) Expiry Date in YYMMDD format using application Identifier (17)
- 3) Batch/Lot Number using application Identifier (10)

The second barcode will encode the following:

SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code)

(Single Label for each Shipper level packaging)



Complete details on GS1 standards along with technical guidelines are available at www.gs1india.org under "downloads" section.