



## Global Location Numbers (GLN)

A key enabler for improving efficiency and visibility of the supply and demand chains

All organisations exchange information in their business processes, externally and internally. The Global Location Number (GLN) makes possible the unique and unambiguous identification of physical locations and legal entities. This is a prerequisite for efficient Electronic Commerce, Global Data Synchronisation and enables other applications too (e.g., Direct Store Delivery, Cross Docking, etc.).



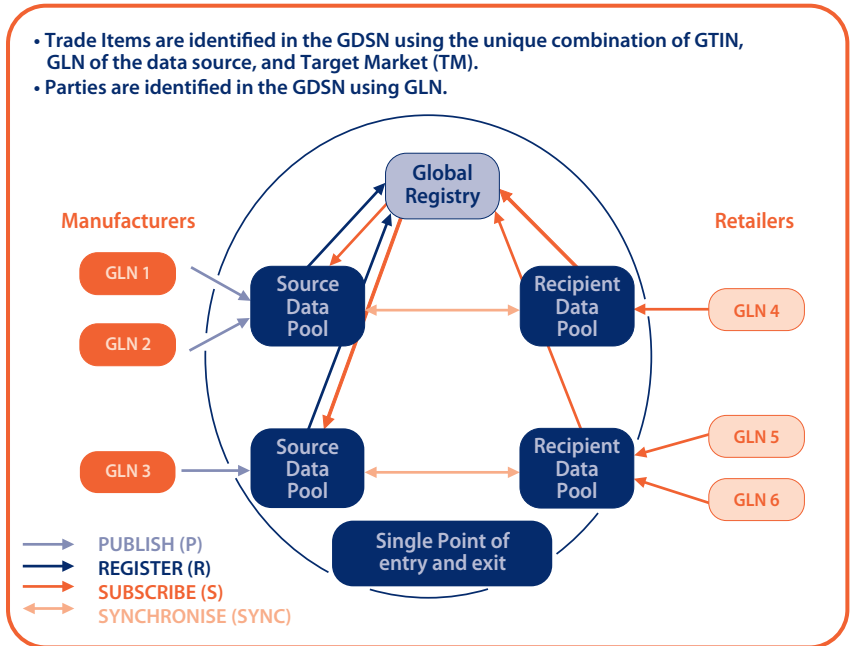
# When are Global Location Numbers used?



## Electronic Data Interchange

GLNs are a key concept in EDI. They provide a unique, unambiguous and efficient identification of all locations relevant to the EDI transaction. This is a prerequisite to electronic trading as it is obviously preferable if all trading companies use the same location coding standard.

Names, addresses and information about particular locations do not need to be communicated for every transaction, the necessary information is communicated only once, entered on to computer files and subsequently retrieved by referring to a unique GLN.



## Global Data Synchronisation

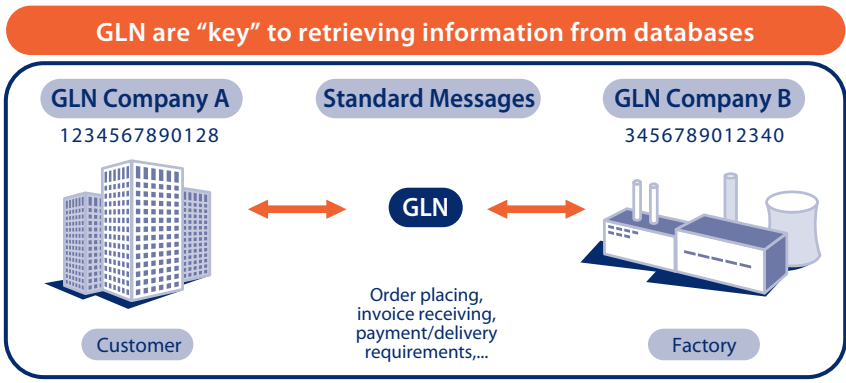
GLN is one of the key pieces of information used to pull a record from a data pool. Handwritten orders, faxes, paper checks in the mail... all keep commerce from happening with the speed and efficiency needed for today's global environment. Have you ever seen an important hand written document and the data on it looked like the characters below? It might take someone the better part of an hour to sort out what it means.

## Efficient shipping and Cross Docking

GLNs can be presented in bar code format for:

- trade units to identify the parties involved
- transport units (cross docking);
- physical locations

GS1-128 can be scanned to automatically capture the details related to the GLN.



The Application Identifier 410 identifies the "ship to location". It is followed by the Location number.

SHIP TO LOC: 1234567890128  
(410)1234567890128

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# What are the benefits of Global Location Numbers ?



## Why use GLN instead of an internal system?

Any company can design its own internal system and code structure to identify all the locations covering its operating requirements. Although an internal solution might seem to be the easiest and fastest way forward, when information is exchanged between computers of distinct companies this may present several problems, such as:

- **Duplication:** two or more trading partners may use the same code to identify their locations;
- **Complexity:** internal codes will have a variety of structures and formats, making application programming more complex and application changes costly;
- **Significance:** location codes that contain information related to the location in the code structure itself, will become difficult to handle as the coding structure evolves to incorporate new meanings.

The use of GLNs provides companies with a method of identifying locations, within and outside their company that are:

- **Unique:** with a simple structure, facilitating processing and transmission of data;
- **Multi sectoral:** the non significant characteristic of the GLN allows any location to be identified and consequently any business regardless of its activity;
- **International:** location numbers are unique world wide. Moreover, the international network of GS1 Member Organisations, covering more than 100 countries, provides support in the local language.

## Who is using Global Location Numbers today ?

GLNs are widely used on a daily basis by more than 1,000,000 GS1 user companies involved in a variety of business activities, including chemicals, electronics, banking, healthcare, retailing and do-it-yourself (DIY) sectors.

The GLN is recognised by the United Nations working party responsible for UN/EDIFACT and by the International Standard Organisation (ISO 6523).

*Note: UN/EDIFACT stands for United Nations, Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport.*

## GS1 in brief

GS1 is a leading global organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency & visibility of the supply and demand chains globally and across sectors.

GS1 is a fully integrated global organisation with more than 30 years experience in global standards.

GS1 offers a diversified portfolio of products, utility solutions and services that fundamentally improve efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains.

GS1 operates in multiple sectors & industries.

More information available on GLN at: [www.gs1.org/glnrules](http://www.gs1.org/glnrules)



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