



Global Standards Management Process

EPCIS & CBV 2.0

Mission-specific work group

Call to Action



Background

Since their initial ratification as EPCglobal standards and subsequent integration into the GS1 “Share” portfolio, EPCIS and its companion standard, the Core Business Vocabulary (CBV), have been updated twice and adopted as ISO standards. Ten years on, EPCIS and the CBV continue to gain importance as visibility enablers in various industries.

Meanwhile, the user community has requested a range of enhancements to EPCIS and the CBV, to ensure their continuing relevance into the coming decades and lower barriers to adoption by making EPCIS more accessible for developers.

Objectives

The work group will add a range of backward-compatible functional enhancements to EPCIS and the CBV standards, grouped into a number of distinct but interwoven bundles:

- Support for **sensor-captured data** in EPCIS events (e.g., cold chain temperature excursions)
- Inclusion of **party certification information** in EPCIS data (e.g., record of trade-relevant supplier certifications)
- Optimised, agile, **Comprehensive** Business Vocabulary (including machine-readable attributes for event validation)
- Addition of **JSON/JSON-LD syntax** to EPCIS (for developers who prefer more compact data models)
- Addition of **REST binding** support to EPCIS (to overcome high entry barriers of web-services)
- Diverse minor adjustments to EPCIS & CBV specs (various modifications to improve usability)

The Mission-Specific Work Group (MSWG) will gather the community and expertise needed to complete the enhancements to EPCIS and the CBV.

Benefits

The work effort is driven by a number of business requirements, including the need to:

- **increase the versatility** of EPCIS as a visibility enabler
- **lower barriers to adoption** of EPCIS & CBV
- **increase developer-accessibility** of EPCIS & CBV
- **ensure relevance** of EPCIS & CBV into the coming decades

These enhancements will boost the appeal of EPCIS & CBV by enabling them to satisfy a range of requirements currently needed by users from multiple sectors and across new implementations that will leverage EPCIS with Blockchain.

This endeavor is aligned with GS1's intent to further strengthen the role of EPCIS & CBV as visibility enablers.

The issue at hand

EPCIS deployments are gaining traction but still face significant implementation hurdles due to gaps between the standard and the requirements of increasingly diverse applications, often bridged by implementation-specific extensions that offer limited interoperability.

An increasing number of requests from the user community propose enhancing EPCIS & CBV with additional features; business applications require support for additional types of visibility data, while solution providers are eager to make EPCIS more agile and accessible to developers.

To respond to user community demand, a new backward-compatible major release of EPCIS & CBV will be developed, adding much-needed functionality and underscoring the value of EPCIS & CBV for existing users, while opening the door to a wave of new applications from multiple sectors, supported by development teams of different technical backgrounds and sizes.

The proposed enhancements will add functionality to support the requirements of users from a wide range of sectors, such as **Fresh Foods, Textiles, IoT/Industry 4.0 and Pharmaceuticals**.

The incorporated features will lower barriers to adoption by making EPCIS more accessible to developers of different backgrounds for broader adoption.

Who should join this work group?

Traceability and business process experts from supply chain stakeholders in multiple sectors, as well as **technical developers with JSON and REST experience**, who can:

- provide insights into current supply chain visibility practices;
- work towards consensus around a common approach;
- communicate this consensus within their own organisation

How will the work group operate?

This work group will follow GS1's improved standards development process:

- **Propose and validate business needs**— analyse business needs from industry input as described in the work order and collect additional feedback to ensure that industry objectives as defined in the work request are met
- **Develop guidelines**— industry experts will draft a guideline and present it to industry for confirmation and approval
- **Ratify and publish**— guidelines are approved by the standards development community, ratified by GS1 governance bodies and published

Next Steps

1. Join the work group:

<http://www.gs1.org/standards-development-work-groups#EPCISCBV>

2. Register for and attend – in person or by phone – the group's kick-off meeting in Jersey City on Wednesday, 21st March, 09:00 - 17:00 (EST), in conjunction with the GS1 Industry & Standards Event

<https://standards-event.gs1.org/>

The GSMP is a community-based forum for businesses facing similar problems to work together and develop standards-based solutions to address them. Active GSMP participants represent industries ranging from retail and consumer goods to fresh foods, healthcare, transport and logistics, government and more—a healthy mix of business and technical people from nearly 60 countries.



Help or questions? Please contact:

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