Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

18-000260

Background:

The GenSpecs and the Logistic Label Guideline are not clear and inconsistent about the placement of GS1 logistic label:

- The GS1 General Specifications section 6.7.1.1 state: "...the target height for the bottom of the barcode is between 400 millimetres (16 inches) and 800 millimetres (32 inches) from the base of the pallet."
- Since there is often more than one barcode on a logistic label, the sentence is not clear which barcode is meant.
- In contrast, figure 6.7.1.1-1 suggests that ALL GS1-128 barcodes must be in the range of 400 and 800 mm (from the top of the highest barcode to the bottom of lowest barcode).
- In addition, the Logistic Label Guideline section 8.1 says in the wording the same as the GenSpecs, but the figure 8-1 suggests, that 400 and 800 is valid for the bottom of the lowest barcode. This is an inconsistency to the GenSpecs.

A clear and consistent rule is important for automated scanning systems.

GS1 General Specification Change:

The recommended changes are highlighted below, relative to GS1 General Specifications version 18.

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6.7 Symbol placement used in general distribution

General distribution scanning items include any item handled as a single unit in the transport and distribution process. This definition covers a wide variety of package types, such as pallets, cartons, cases, bins, and totes. These items can be trade items and/or logistic units.

Barcode scanning may be carried out manually or automatically, and the recommended symbol location cannot be optimised for one or the other in an open supply chain scenario. These guidelines have been prepared with the objective to reduce overall supply chain cost but in the full knowledge that implementation will only be driven by a proven (supply chain) business-case.

6.7.1 General rule

The barcodes on units intended for general distribution SHALL be upright (i.e. in picket fence orientation) and placed on the sides of the unit. Each item SHALL have at least one barcode, and two are recommended when these symbols are pre-printed (see section 6.7.3).

As not all products are packed in an identical way, this general rule may not apply to unusual packaging types (e.g., low height items, display cases, bags).

The barcodes SHALL be kept away from any vertical edges so that the barcodes are less likely to be accidentally damaged in transit.

6.7.1.1 Symbol placement on pallets

For all types of pallets, including full pallets containing individual trade items and single trade items, (such as a refrigerator or washing machine), all GS1 barcodes SHALL be positioned in a space where the target height for the bottom of the barcode is between 400 millimetres (16 inches) and 800 millimetres (32 inches) from the base of the pallet. For pallets less than 400 millimetres (16 inches) high, all the barcodes SHALL be placed as high as possible while protecting the barcode.

The symbol(s) including its Quiet Zones, SHALL be at least 50 millimetres (2.0 inches) from any vertical edge to avoid damage.

Figure 6.7.1.1-1. Symbol placement on pallets
6.7.1.2 Symbol placement on cartons and outer cases

For cartons and outer cases, symbol placement will vary slightly in practice, however the target placement for the bottom of the barcode is 32 millimetres (1.25 inches) from the natural base of the item. The symbol including, its Quiet Zones, SHOULD be at least 19 millimetres (0.75 inch) from any vertical edge to avoid damage.