



GSMP:

## General Specifications Change Notification (GSCN)

GSCN #	GSCN Name	Issue Date	Status
16-128	International Standard Serial Number	Aug 2016	Ratified

### Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

WR 16-128

### Background:

- There is an inconsistency in section 2 between the sections related to Books (2.1.2.1.5) and Serial Publications (2.1.2.1.6), although both are governed by a similar contractual agreement.
- Article V of the ISSN contract says that "The EAN Coding Authorities undertake to stipulate clearly that the users should adopt the coding with ISSN using the flag 977 or if this is not possible a code based on the choices left to the Coding Authorities."  
For unknown reasons when the GS1 General Specifications were re-structured in 1999, the coding of serial publications with ISSN was presented as the third option.  
The request is to specify ISSN coding as the first option, which will make the specifications consistent with the formal GS1/ISSN contract.

### GS1 General Specification Change:

The recommended changes are highlighted in the attached excerpt from the GS1 General Specifications, v16.

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The system recognises this element string by the symbology identifier ]E2. The five-digit add-on symbol must be jointly used with a UPC-A, UPC-E or EAN-13 barcode. It is never scanned alone, and the data from both barcodes can be used together for processing.

**Rules**

Add-on symbols involve the following constraints:

- They SHOULD NOT contain information that should rightly be looked up using the item’s GTIN-13 (or GTIN-12).
- The reading of the add-on symbol by the retailer’s point-of-sale system is optional.
- The use of the add-on symbol is the responsibility of each publisher.

**Data carrier specification**

**Carrier choices**

Individual books and paperbacks SHOULD be marked with an EAN-13, UPC-A, or UPC-E barcode that complies with the print quality specifications applicable to all GS1 system barcodes. The EAN/UPC 2-digit or 5-digit Add-on symbols are options used with the above EAN/UPC symbols.

Groupings of identical book items and paperbacks SHOULD be marked with GS1-128 or ITF-14, see section 2.1.2.6.2 Trade item groupings of identical trade items.

When identifying serials, see section 2.1.2.1.6 Serial Publications: ISSN, GTIN-13, and GTIN-12.

**Symbol X-dimensions, minimum symbol height, and minimum symbol quality**

See section 5.5.2.7.1, GS1 system symbol specification table 1.

**Symbol placement**

All the symbol placement guidelines defined in section 6.4.

**Unique application processing requirements**

For description of processing requirements, see section 7.

**2.1.2.1.6 Serial publications: ISSN, GTIN-13, and GTIN-12 scanned in general retail at POS**

**Application description**

~~The third first and recommended option is to make use of the ISSN numbering system. The GS1 Prefix 977 is used for encoding the ISSN assigned to a particular item without its check digit.~~

~~When identifying the second option is to identify serial publications, companies should first attempt to identify them~~ in the same manner as any other trade item: using the GTIN-13 or GTIN-12 data structure.

The ~~third~~second option involves using a special GS1 Company Prefix (assigned by a GS1 Member Organisation within its territory), the publication number, and the price of the publication (provided that the national legislation allows this). With this option, the price is placed in clearly defined positions and is directly usable in the country of publication. However, as soon as the item leaves the country, the price has no direct significance, and the GTIN must be interpreted in a general way without being broken down internally.

~~The third option is to make use of the ISSN numbering system. The GS1 Prefix 977 is used for encoding the ISSN assigned to a particular item without its check digit.~~

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**Figure 2.1.2.1.6-1.** Format of the element string

GS1 Prefix	ISSN (without its check digit)	Variant	Check digit
9 7 7	N <sub>4</sub> N <sub>5</sub> N <sub>6</sub> N <sub>7</sub> N <sub>8</sub> N <sub>9</sub> N <sub>10</sub>	N <sub>11</sub> N <sub>12</sub>	N <sub>13</sub>

The variant digits N<sub>11</sub> and N<sub>12</sub> may be used to express variants of the same title for issues with a different price or to identify different issues of a daily within one week. Normal title takes value 00.