General Specifications Change Notification (GSCN)

The Global Language of Business

GSCN #	GSCN Name	Effective Date
16-301	Deprecation of terms VMN, VMN-12, VMN-13, Coupon-12, Coupon-13	3 Oct 2016

Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

WR 16-301

Background:

Section 1.4.1.2 - Restricted Circulation Numbers of the GS1 General Specifications v16 refers to VMN-12 and VMN-13. The definition for VMN-13 contradicts the GS1 Prefix table in the next subsection and the term "VMN" is defined nowhere else in the document except in the glossary. Furthermore, the glossary refers to the terms Coupon-12 and Coupon-13 that are no longer in use. Proposal is to deprecate these terms.

GS1 General Specification Change:

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

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1.3.5 GS1 business messages

GS1 business messages or GS1 standards-based applications use GS1 identification keys for identification exclusive of GS1 data carrier features. Examples of data carrier features include use of:

- Modulo 103 GS1-128 symbol check character to secure data capture.

- Function 1 Symbol Character (FNC1) in the second position of GS1-128 barcode or an Electronic Product Code (EPC) header value to discriminate between GS1 data content and data carrier overhead.

- FNC1 as separator character or EPC parsing value to parse a decoded data string into significant data parts.

⚠️ **Exception:** If an EPC user is using GS1 system and non-GS1 system headers to support an application, this policy does not apply, and advice should be sought on the use of EPC headers to provide uniqueness among multiple numbering systems.

1.4 ~~GS1 Prefix, GS1-8 Prefix and GS1 Company Prefix~~The GS1 Identification System

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1.4.1 Global, open versus restricted

1.4.1.1 Global, open numbers (unrestricted distribution)

Global, Open is an identification number used in unrestricted distribution which signifies that such system data may be applied on goods to be processed anywhere in the world without restraint as to such things as country, company, and industry.

1.4.1.2 Restricted Circulation Numbers

Restricted Circulation Numbers (RCN) are GS1 identification numbers used for special applications in restricted environments, defined by the local GS1 Member Organisation (e.g., restricted within a country, company, or industry). They are allocated by GS1 for either internal use by companies or to GS1 Member Organisations for assignment based on business needs in their country (e.g., variable measure trade item identification, coupons).

- RCN-12 is a 12-digit Restricted Circulation Number

- RCN-13 is a 13-digit Restricted Circulation Number

- RCN-8 is an 8-digit Restricted Circulation Number ~~beginning with GS1-8 Prefix 0 or 2.~~

~~A variable measure number (VMN) identifies variable measure trade items for scanning at the point of sale. It is defined per GS1 Member Organisation rules.~~

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- ~~VMN-12 is a 12-digit Restricted Circulation Number encoded in UPC-A symbols to allow scanning of variable measure trade items at the point-of-sale. It is defined per target market specific rules that are associated with U.P.C. Prefix 2.~~

- ~~VMN-13 is a 13-digit Restricted Circulation Number encoded in EAN-13 symbols to allow scanning of variable measure trade items at the point-of-sale. It is defined per target market specific rules that are associated with GS1 Prefixes 20 through 29.~~

1.4.2 GS1 Prefix

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The GS1 Prefix is a unique string of two or more digits, issued by the GS1 Global Office, and allocated to GS1 Member Organisations to ~~create~~ issue GS1 Company Prefixes or allocated to other specific areas listed in figure 1.4.2-1. The main purpose of the GS1 Prefix is to allow decentralisation of the administration of identification numbers. GS1 Prefix ranges are shown in figure 1.4.2-1.

8 GS1 Standards glossary of terms

8.1 GS1 glossary of terms and definitions

The following glossary was updated for the Jan-2016 publication of this document. Please refer to the www.gs1.org/glossary for the latest version.

Term	Definition
2-dimensional symbology	Optically readable symbols that must be examined both vertically and horizontally to read the entire message. Two-dimensional symbols may be one of two types: matrix symbols and multi-row symbols. Two-dimensional symbols have error detection and may include error correction features.
acceptance criteria	An allowance for a small measurement variation between commercial verifiers or operators during barcode verification testing.
active potency	Represents the measured actual ("Active") potency of a biologic such as haemophilia products.
add-on symbol	A barcode used to encode information supplementary to that in the main barcode.
adjacent symbols	Multiple barcodes placed next to one another without infringing on Quiet Zones.
AIDC data validation	Verification of scanned/read data from barcodes or RFID tags to determine whether it meets the application rules for system logic and consistency and/or a particular user's requirements, prior to processing in applications.
allocation	The association of an issued GS1 identifier (GS1 Prefix, GS1 Company Prefix, or GS1 identification key) with an entity or object in accordance with the GS1 rules and the issuing organisation's policies.
alphanumeric (an)	Describes a character set that contains alphabetic characters (letters), numeric digits (numbers), and other characters, such as punctuation marks.
aperture	A physical opening that is part of the optical path in a device such as a scanner, photometer, or camera. Most apertures are circular, but they may be rectangular or elliptical.
asset type	A component of the Global Returnable Asset Identifier (GRAI) assigned by the owner of the GS1 Company Prefix to create a unique GRAI.
attribute	An element string that provides additional information about an entity identified with a GS1 identification key, such as batch number associated with a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN).
autodiscrimination	The capability of a reader to automatically recognise and decode multiple barcode symbologies.
automatic identification and data capture (AIDC)	A technology used to automatically capture data. AIDC technologies include barcodes, smart cards, biometrics and RFID.
auxiliary patterns	Components of the EAN/UPC symbology. The centre guard bar pattern, the left guard bar pattern, and the right guard bar pattern are examples of these.
barcode	A symbol that encodes data into a machine readable pattern of adjacent, varying width, parallel, rectangular dark bars and pale spaces.
barcode verification	The assessment of the printed quality of a barcode based on ISO/IEC standards using ISO/IEC compliant barcode verifiers.
bar gain/loss	The increase/decrease in bar width due to effects of the reproduction and printing processes.
batch / lot	The batch or lot number associates an item with information the manufacturer considers relevant for traceability of the trade item. The data may refer to the trade item itself or to items contained in it.
bearer bars	Bar abutting the tops and bottoms of the bars in a barcode or a frame surrounding the entire symbol, intended to equalise the pressure exerted by the printing plate over the entire surface of the symbol and/or to prevent a short scan by the barcode reader.
brand owner	The organization that owns the specifications of a trade item, regardless of where and by whom it is manufactured. The brand owner is normally responsible for the allocation of the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN). The party that is responsible for allocating GS1 identification keys. The administrator of a GS1 Company Prefix.
carrier (logistics)	The party that provides freight transportation services or a physical or electronic mechanism that carries business information.
check digit	A final digit calculated from the other digits of some GS1 identification keys. This digit is used to check that the data has been correctly composed. (See GS1 check digit calculation.)

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Term	Definition
Character Set 39	The set of characters found in *ISO 646*: Unique Graphic Character Allocations which includes numeric, alphabetic upper-case, plus the characters "#", "-", and "/".
Character Set 82	The set of characters found in *ISO 646*: Unique Graphic Character Allocations which includes numeric, alphabetic upper-case and lower-case, plus twenty special characters but excluding "space".
component / part	An item that is intended to undergo at least one further transformation process to create finished goods for the purpose of downstream consumption
Component / Part Identifier (CPID)	The unique identifier for a component / part, comprising a GS1 Company Prefix and a component / part reference
Composite Component	This term is used to refer to the 2D symbol component within a composite symbol.
Composite symbology	A GS1 system composite symbol consists of a linear component (encoding the item's primary identification) associated with an adjacent Composite Component (encoding attribute data, such as a batch number or expiration date). The composite symbol always includes a linear component so that the primary identification is readable by all scanning technologies, and so that imager scanners can use the linear component as a finder pattern for the adjacent 2D Composite Component. The composite symbol always includes one of three multi-row 2D Composite Component versions (e.g., CC-A, CC-B, CC-C) for compatibility with linear- and area-CCD scanners and with linear and rastering laser scanners.
concatenation	The representation of several element strings in one barcode.
configuration level	Assignment or grouping of trade items that includes one or more of the same trade item.
consignment	A grouping of logistic or transport units assembled by a freight forwarder or carrier to be transported under one transport document (e.g. HWB)
country subdivision	Principle administrative divisions, or similar areas, of a country included in *ISO 3166-1*. Examples are a state in the US, a region in France, a canton in Swiss.
coupon	A voucher that can be redeemed at the point-of-sale for a cash value or free item.
Coupon Extended barcode	A supplemental barcode, used only in North America, that can be printed on a coupon to provide additional information, such as offer codes, expiration dates, and household identification numbers.
coupon instance ID	The identification of a unique instance of a digital coupon.
coupon issuer	Party issuing the coupons, bearing the commercial and financial responsibility for the coupons.
~~Coupon-12~~	~~A 12-digit Restricted Circulation Number for coupons structured according to the rules defined in the target market.~~
~~Coupon-13~~	~~A 13-digit Restricted Circulation Number for coupons structured according to the rules defined in the target market.~~
customer	The party that receives, buys, or consumes an item or service.
data character	A letter, digit, or other symbol represented in the data field(s) of an element string.
Data Matrix	A standalone, two-dimensional matrix symbology that is made up of square modules arranged within a perimeter finder pattern. Data Matrix ISO version ECC 200 is the only version that supports GS1 system identification numbers, including the Function 1 Symbol Character. Data Matrix symbols are read by two-dimensional imaging scanners or vision systems.
data field	A field that contains a GS1 identification key, an RCN, or attribute information
data titles	Data titles are the abbreviated descriptions of element strings which are used to support manual interpretation of barcodes.
default front	The side of a retail consumer trade item that is used as the starting point to capture dimensional attributes for the purpose of data alignment.
digital coupon	A digital coupon is an electronic presentation, that is distributed and presented without manifesting as "paper" or in other hard-copy form, and that can be exchanged for a financial discount or for loyalty points when making a purchase.
direct mode	Mobile device information retrieval function when the barcode contains either the address (URL) of the content or service, or the content itself, in-line.

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Term	Definition
direct part marking (DPM)	Direct part marking refers to the process of marking a symbol on an item using an intrusive or non-intrusive method.
direct print	A process in which the printing apparatus prints the symbol by making physical contact with a substrate (e.g., flexography, ink jet, dot peening).
document type	A component of a Global Document Type Identifier (GDTI) assigned by the ~~brand owner~~document issuer to create a unique GDTI.
dynamic assortment	An assortment that comprises a fixed count of a changing assortment of two or more different retail consumer trade items, each identified with a unique GTIN. All of the retail consumer trade items and their GTINs will have been communicated to the recipient before trading takes place and are declared on the package. The recipient has accepted that the supplier may change the assortment without any prior notice.
EAN/UPC Composite symbology family	A family of barcodes comprising the UPC-A Composite symbology, UPC-E Composite symbology, EAN-8 Composite symbology, and EAN-13 Composite symbology.
EAN/UPC symbology	A family of barcodes including EAN-8, EAN-13, UPC-A, and UPC-E barcodes. Although UPC-E barcodes do not have a separate symbology identifier, they act like a separate symbology through the scanning application software. See also EAN-8 barcode, EAN-13 barcode, UPC-A barcode, and UPC-E barcode.
EAN-8 barcode	A barcode of the EAN/UPC symbology that encodes GTIN-8 or RCN-8.
EAN-13 barcode	A barcode of the EAN/UPC symbology that encodes GTIN-13~~, Coupon-13,~~ and RCN-13~~, and VMN-13~~.
electronic commerce	The conduct of business communications and management through electronic methods, such as electronic data interchange (EDI) and automated data collection systems.
electronic message	A composition of element strings from scanned data and transaction information assembled for data validation and unambiguous processing in a user application.
Electronic Product Code (EPC)	An identification scheme for universally identifying physical objects (e.g. trade items, assets, and locations) via RFID tags and other means. The standardised EPC data consists of an EPC (or EPC Identifier) that uniquely identifies an individual object, as well as an optional filter value when judged to be necessary to enable effective and efficient reading of the EPC tags.
element	A single bar or space of a barcode.
element string	The combination of a GS1 Application Identifier and GS1 Application Identifier data field.
encounter	Situation on the uninterrupted course of which one or more healthcare provider or individual providers delivers healthcare services to a subject of care
enhanced level of AIDC marking (for regulated healthcare trade items)	A level within a graduated system of AIDC trade item marking that provides GTIN plus attribute information
episode of care	An encounter or series of encounters related to the detection and subsequent care for a particular healthcare requirement.
even parity	A characteristic of the encodation of a symbol character whereby the symbol character contains an even number of dark modules.
Extended Packaging	An approach to giving consumers access to additional information or services about trade items through their mobile device. It is the ability to retrieve additional information about the trade item through mobile devices or in general between link a trade item with virtual information or services.
extension digit	The first digit within the SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code) which is allocated by the user and is designed to increase the capacity of the SSCC.
final filled consumer trade item package	A trade item as it is distributed to the consumer or end-user.
finished consumer trade item	A product after all production and packaging processes are completed and it is ready for distribution to the end consumer.
fixed length	Term used to describe a data field in an element string with an established number of characters.
fixed measure trade item	An item always produced in the same pre-defined version (e.g., type, size, weight, contents, design) that may be sold at any point in the supply chain.

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Term	Definition
freight forwarder	The party that arranges the carriage of goods including connected services and/or associated formalities on behalf of the shipper (consignor) or consignee.
fresh foods	Trade items in the following product categories: fruits, vegetables, meats, seafood, bakery and ready to serve food such as cheeses, cold cooked or cured meats, and salad, etc. Fresh foods are defined as food that is not preserved by canning, dehydration, freezing or smoking.
full string	The data transmitted by the barcode reader from reading a data carrier, including the symbology identifier as well as the encoded data.
Function 1 Symbol Character (FNC1)	A symbology character used in some GS1 data carriers for specific purposes.
general distribution scanning	Scanning environments that include barcoded trade items packaged for transport, logistic units, assets, and location tags.
general retail consumer trade item	A retail consumer trade item identified with a GTIN-13, GTIN-12 or GTIN-8 utilising omnidirectional linear barcodes that can be scanned by high-volume, omnidirectional scanners.
Global Electronic Party Information Registry (GEPIR®)	A web-browser interface and a machine to machine set of protocols for GS1 Member Organisation (MO) membership databases to communicate company information for selected GS1 keys including information about the allocation of the GS1 Company Prefixes used to create GS1 keys and/or individually assigned GS1 keys. Created in 1997 as a tool for MO staff, GEPIR's initial scope was to provide a search engine for member addresses and phone numbers using MO GS1 Company Prefix (GCP) databases as the source of information. In more recent versions, GEPIR also provides a very limited set of information on parties (GLNs) and trade items (GTINs).
GINC	See Global Identification Number for Consignment.
GLN extension component	The GLN extension component is used to identify internal physical locations within a location which is identified with a GLN (stores, factories, buildings, etc.).
Global Coupon Number (GCN)	A GS1 identification key that provides a globally unique identification for a coupon, with an optional serial number
Global Document Type Identifier (GDTI)	The GS1 identification key used to identify a document type. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, document type, check digit, and optional serial number.
Global Identification Number for Consignment (GINC)	The GS1 identification key used to identify a logical grouping of logistic or transport units that are assembled to be transported under one transport document (e.g. HWB). The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix and the freight forwarder's or carrier's transport reference.
Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI)	The GS1 identification key used to identify an individual asset. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix and individual asset reference.
Global Location Number (GLN)	The GS1 identification key used to identify physical locations or parties. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, location reference, and check digit.
Global Returnable Asset Identifier (GRAI)	The GS1 identification key used to identify returnable assets. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, asset type, check digit, and optional serial number.
Global Service Relation Number (GSRN)	The Global Service Relation Number is the GS1 identification key used to identify the relationship between an organisation offering services and the recipient or provider of services. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, service reference and check digit.
Global Shipment Identification Number (GSIN)	The GS1 identification key used to identify a logical grouping of logistic or transport units that are assembled by the consignor (seller) for a transport shipment from that consignor to one consignee (buyer) referencing a despatch advice and/or BOL. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, shipper reference and check digit.
Global Trade Item Number® (GTIN®)	The GS1 identification key used to identify trade items. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, an item reference and check digit.
GS1®	Based in Brussels, Belgium, and Princeton, USA, it is the organisation that manages the GS1 system. Its members are GS1 Member Organisations.
GS1 AIDC data carrier	A means to represent data in a machine readable form; used to enable automatic reading of the element strings as specified for use by GS1.
GS1 Application Identifier	The field of two or more digits at the beginning of an element string that uniquely defines its format and meaning.

Term	Definition
GS1 Application Identifier data field	The data used in a business application defined by one application identifier.
GS1 B2C Trusted Source of Data (TSD)	A GS1 managed network concept that leverages GTIN (product identification) and GDSN (product information) and would support the communication of authentic product data provided by brand owners to retailers, internet application providers, government, and consumers and shoppers using internet and mobile devices (phones, laptops, etc.).
GS1 check digit calculation	An algorithm used by the GS1 system for the calculation of a check digit to verify accuracy of data. (e.g., modulo 10 check digit, price check digit).
GS1 Common Currency Coupon Code	An identification number for coupons issued in a common currency area (e.g., the euro currency) that uses the Coupon Code-13 data structure.
GS1 Company Prefix	A unique string of four to twelve digits used to issue GS1 identification keys. The first digits are a valid GS1 Prefix and the length must be at least one longer than the length of the GS1 Prefix. The GS1 Company Prefix is issued by a GS1 Member Organisation. As the GS1 Company Prefix varies in length, the issuance of a GS1 Company Prefix excludes all longer strings that start with the same digits from being issued as GS1 Company Prefixes. See also U.P.C Company Prefix.
GS1 Company Prefix licensee	The entity to which a GS1 Company Prefix is licensed.
GS1 DataBar Composite symbology family	A family of symbols comprising all the GS1 DataBar barcodes when an accompanying Composite Component is printed directly above the linear component.
GS1 DataBar Expanded barcode	A barcode that encodes any GS1 identification key plus attribute data, such as weight and "best before" date, in a linear symbol that can be scanned omnidirectionally by suitably programmed point-of-sale scanners.
GS1 DataBar Expanded Stacked barcode	A barcode that is a variation of the GS1 DataBar Expanded barcode that is stacked in multiple rows and is used when the normal symbol would be too wide for the application.
GS1 DataBar Limited barcode	A barcode that encodes a GTIN with a leading digit of zero or indicator digit of one in a linear symbol; for use on small items that will not be scanned at the point-of-sale.
GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional barcode	A barcode that encodes a GTIN. It is designed to be read by omnidirectional scanners.
GS1 DataBar®	A family of barcodes, including GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional; GS1 DataBar Stacked Omnidirectional; GS1 DataBar Expanded; GS1 DataBar Expanded Stacked GS1 DataBar Truncated, GS1 DataBar Limited, and GS1 DataBar Stacked symbols.
GS1 DataBar Retail POS family	The members of the GS1 DataBar symbology family designed to be read in segments by omnidirectional scanners at retail POS: GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional; GS1 DataBar Stacked Omnidirectional; GS1 DataBar Expanded; GS1 DataBar Expanded Stacked.
GS1 DataBar Stacked barcode	A barcode that is a variation of the GS1 DataBar Truncated barcode that is stacked in two rows and is used when the GS1 DataBar Truncated barcode would be too wide for the application.
GS1 DataBar Stacked Omnidirectional barcode	A barcode that is a variation of the GS1 DataBar symbology that is stacked in two rows and is used when the GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional symbol would be too wide for the application. It is designed to be read by omnidirectional checkout scanners.
GS1 DataBar Truncated barcode	A barcode that is a truncated version of the GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional barcode. It is used when the GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional barcode would be too tall for small item marking applications. It is not intended for omnidirectional checkout scanning.
GS1 EANCOM®	The GS1 standard for Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) that is a detailed implementation guideline of the UN/EDIFACT standard messages using the GS1 identification keys.
GS1 DataMatrix	GS1 implementation specification for use of Data Matrix
GS1 Global Data Dictionary	A repository tool used to record GS1 member standards agreements on business terms and definitions used by all business units.
GS1 Global Standards Management Process	GS1 created the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) to support standards development activity for the GS1 system. The GSMP uses a global consensus process to develop supply chain standards that are based on business needs and user-input
GS1 identification key	A unique identifier for a class of objects (e.g. a trade item) or an instance of an object (e.g. a logistic unit).

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Term	Definition
GS1 identification key licensee	The entity to which a GS1 Identification Key is licensed.
GS1 identification licence	A legal agreement that permits an organization (typically a user company) to use a GS1 Company Prefix or GS1 identification key in a manner consistent with the GS1 standards and subject to payment and other terms dictated by GS1.
GS1 Member Organisation	A member of GS1 that is responsible for administering the GS1 system in its country (or assigned area). This task includes, but is not restricted to, ensuring ~~brand owners~~user companies ~~make~~ correct use of the GS1 system, have access to education, training, promotion and implementation support and have access to play an active role in GSMP.
GS1 Prefix	A unique string of two or more digits issued by GS1 Global Office and allocated to GS1 Member Organisations to issue GS1 Company Prefixes or allocated to other specific areas.
GS1 QR Code	GS1 implementation specification for use of QR Code
GS1 symbologies using GS1 Application Identifiers	All GS1 endorsed barcode symbologies that can encode more than a GTIN namely GS1-128, GS1 DataMatrix, GS1 DataBar and Composite.
GS1 system	The specifications, standards, and guidelines administered by GS1.
GS1 XML	The GS1 standard for extensible markup language (XML) schemas providing users with a global business messaging language of e-business to conduct efficient internet-based electronic commerce.
GS1-128 symbology	A subset of Code 128 that is utilised exclusively for GS1 system data structures.
GS1-8 Prefix	A unique string of three digits issued by GS1 Global Office and allocated to GS1 Member Organisations to issue GTIN-8s or allocated to issue RCN-8s (see RCN-8).
GSIN	See Global Shipment Identification Number.
GTIN application format	A format for a GTIN-8, GTIN-12, or GTIN-13 used when a GTIN application uses a fixed field length, for example, when a GTIN-13 is encoded in symbology using Application Identifier (01).
GTIN plus attribute(s) flag	A trigger in systems to determine if additional processing is required by a barcode user for a given GTIN.
GTIN-8	The 8-digit GS1 identification key composed of a GS1-8 Prefix, item reference, and check digit used to identify trade items.
GTIN-12	The 12-digit GS1 identification key composed of a U.P.C. Company Prefix, item reference, and check digit used to identify trade items.
GTIN-13	The 13-digit GS1 identification key composed of a GS1 Company Prefix, item reference, and check digit used to identify trade items.
GTIN-14	The 14-digit GS1 identification key composed of an indicator digit (1-9), GS1 Company Prefix, item reference, and check digit used to identify trade items.
guard bar pattern	An auxiliary pattern of bars and spaces corresponding to start or stop patterns in barcode symbologies, and serving to separate the two halves of EAN-8, EAN-13, and UPC-A symbols.
hanging item	Any retail consumer trade item that is normally presented in the store in a hanging position.
healthcare primary packaging	The first level of packaging for the product marked with an AIDC data carrier either on the packaging or on a label affixed to the packaging. For non-sterile packaging, the first level of packaging can be the packaging in direct contact with the product. For sterile packaging, the first level of packaging can be any combination of the sterile packaging system, May consist of a single item or group of items for a single therapy such as a kit. For packaging configurations that include a retail consumer trade item, primary packaging is a packaging level below the retail consumer trade item.
healthcare provider	An organisation or facility that delivers healthcare to a subject of care. Corresponds to "care delivery organisation", "healthcare organisation", etc.
healthcare secondary packaging	A level of packaging marked with an AIDC carrier that may contain one or more primary packages or a group of primary packages containing a single item.
highest level of AIDC marking (for regulated healthcare trade items)	A level within a graduated system of AIDC trade item marking that provides GTIN, serialisation, and potentially other attribute information.

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Term	Definition
House Way Bill Number	A freight forwarder's document used mainly as a control for the goods within the freight forwarder's own service system.
human readable interpretation(HRI)	Characters, such as letters and numbers, which can be read by persons and are encoded in GS1 AIDC data carriers confined to a GS1 standard structure and format. The human readable interpretation is a one-to-one illustration of the encoded data. However start, stop, shift and function characters, as well as the symbol check character, are not shown in the human readable interpretation.
identification number	A numeric or alphanumeric field intended to enable the recognition of one entity versus another.
indicator	A digit from 1 to 9 in the leftmost position of the GTIN-14.
indirect mode	Mobile device information retrieval function when the code contains an identifier, which needs to be resolved to obtain the content or service. Resolving an identifier means looking it up, typically at a network service, to determine the corresponding content or service.
individual asset	An entity that is part of the inventory of assets for a given company. (See also returnable asset.)
individual asset reference	A component of the Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI) assigned by the ~~brand owner~~asset owner or manager to create a unique GIAI.
individual provider	Any person who provides or is a potential provider of a health care service to a subject of care
inner trade item grouping	Intermediate package of multiples of the same trade item or a pre-defined assortment of trade items. An inner trade item grouping may or may not be sold at POS. (In some regions may also be referred to as inner pack).
Interleaved 2-of-5 symbology	Barcode symbology used for the ITF-14 barcode.
inverse exponent	The GS1 Application Identifier digit that denotes the implied decimal point position in an element string.
issuance	The generation of a new GS1 identifier (GS1 Prefix, GS1 Company Prefix, or GS1 identification key) in accordance with the GS1 rules and the issuing organisation's policies.
item reference	A component of the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) assigned by the brand owner to create a unique GTIN.
ITF symbology	See Interleaved 2-of-5 symbology.
ITF-14 barcode	ITF-14 (a subset of Interleaved 2-of-5) barcodes carry GTINs only on trade items that are not expected to pass through the point-of-sale.
kit	A collection of different regulated healthcare items assembled for use in a single therapy.
leading zero(s)	Digits (always zeroes) which must be placed in the leftmost position(s) of a data string when GTIN-8, GTIN-12, or GTIN-13 are encoded in an GS1 AIDC data carrier that requires 14-digits (see also GTIN application format) or when used for the same intent in other data structures such as GRAI.
levels of AIDC marking	A graduated system of AIDC marking. The graduated system is defined as minimum, enhanced and highest levels of AIDC marking.
linear barcode	Barcode symbology using bars and spaces in one dimension.
local assigned code (LAC)	A particular use of the UPC-E barcode for restricted distribution.
location reference	A component of a Global Location Number (GLN) assigned by the ~~brand owner~~party that defined the the location to create a unique GLN.
logistic measures	Measures indicating the outside dimensions, total weight, or volume inclusive of packing material of a logistic unit. Also known as gross measures.
logistic unit	An item of any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be managed through the supply chain. It is identified with an SSCC.
loose produce	Fruits and vegetables which are delivered to the store loose, in boxes or cases, and then put into a bag or selected individually by the customer for purchase.

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Term	Definition
magnification	Different sizes of barcodes based on a nominal size and a fixed aspect ratio; stated as a percentage or decimal equivalent of a nominal size.
measure verifier-digit	A digit calculated from the measure field of a variable measure number encoded using the EAN/UPC symbology. Used to check that the data has been correctly composed.
medical device	Any instrument, apparatus, implement, machine, appliance, implant, in vitro reagent or calibrator, software, material or other similar or related article, intended by the manufacturer to be used, alone or in combination, for human beings for any medical purpose.
minimum level of AIDC marking (for regulated healthcare trade items)	A level within a graduated system of AIDC trade item marking that provides GTIN with no attribute information.
module	The narrowest nominal width unit of measure in a barcode. In certain symbologies, element widths may be specified as multiples of one module. Equivalent to X-dimension.
modulo 10	The name of the algorithm – a simple checksum formula in the public domain – used to create a check digit for those GS1 identification keys that require one.
modulo 103 GS1-128 symbol check character	A number, which results from a modulo calculation, that is encoded in the GS1-128 barcode as a self-checking symbol character. It is created automatically by software as a symbol overhead character and is not expressed in the human readable interpretation.
multiple unit blister / package	Immediate package for a medicine with more than one single unit. Package which fully encloses the pill / caplet / capsule. Each dosage form may be individually packaged. The individually blistered dosage forms are attached to each other in one strip.
National Healthcare Reimbursement Number (NHRN)	National and/or regional identification numbers used on pharmaceutical and/or medical devices where required by national or regional regulatory organisations for product registration purposes and/or for the management of healthcare provider reimbursement.
National Trade Item Number (NTIN)	A coding scheme, administered in the healthcare sector by a national organisation for which a GS1 Prefix has been issued to permit its uniqueness within the GTIN pool but without assurance of full compatibility with GTIN functionality. The result is a product identification number assigned by a third party (not the brand owner or manufacturer). Example: the CIP (Club Inter Pharmaceutique) in France administered by the French Health Products Safety Agency (AFSSAPS).
natural base	The side of a non-retail consumer trade item package that is used as a reference point for capturing dimensional attributes for the purpose of data alignment.
non-GTIN packs	A packaging level for trade items where there is no trading partner requirement for GTIN identification. If a GTIN is required, then this item becomes a retail consumer trade item or trade item grouping.
non-HRI text	Characters such as letters and numbers that can be read by persons and may or may not be encoded in GS1 AIDC data carriers and are not confined to a structure and format based on GS1 standards (e.g., a date code expressed in a national format that could be used to encode a date field in a GS1 AIDC data carrier, brand owner name, consumer declarations).
object class	Similar to a stock keeping unit SKU or trade item level.
odd parity	A characteristic of the encodation of a symbol character whereby the symbol character contains an odd number of dark modules.
omnidirectional linear barcode	A linear barcode symbol designed to be omnidirectionally read in segments by suitably programmed high-volume omnidirectional point-of-sale (POS) scanners.
packaging component	Entities such as bottles, caps, and labels to package a consumer trade item.
packaging component number	GTIN attribute used to establish a relationship between a finished consumer trade item and packaging components.
payment slip	The end customer's notification of a demand for payment for a billable service (e.g., utility bill) comprising an amount payable and payment conditions.
platform	Pallet or slip sheet or other device used to store or move a unit load, whether a logistics unit or a GTIN.
point-of-care (POC)	Dispensing or use of a non-retail, regulated healthcare pharmaceutical or medical device to a patient based on right product, dose, and route of administration

Term	Definition
point-of-sale (POS)	Refers to the retail checkout where omnidirectional barcodes must be used to enable very rapid scanning or low volume checkout where linear or 2D matrix barcodes are used with image-based scanners.
pre-defined assortments	An assortment that comprises a fixed count of two or more different trade items, each identified with a unique GTIN that is declared on the package. The trade items contained within the assortment may be trade items of one or more manufacturers. When an assortment contains items from multiple manufacturers the GTIN requirement for the assortment is the responsibility of the organisation that creates the assortment. Any change in the configuration of the assortment is considered a new trade item.
price check digit	A digit calculated from the price element of a variable measure number encoded using the EAN/UPC symbology. Used to check that the data has been correctly composed.
price verifier digit	See price check digit.
primary barcode	The barcode containing the identification number of the item (e.g. GTIN, SSCC). Used to determine the placement of any additional barcode information.
Quiet Zone	A clear space which precedes the start character of a barcode and follows the stop character. Formerly referred to as "clear area" or "light margin".
Quiet Zone Indicator	A greater than (>) or less than (<) character, printed in the human readable field of the barcode, with the tip aligned with the outer edge of the Quiet Zone.
QR Code	A two-dimensional matrix symbology consisting of square modules arranged in a square pattern. The symbology is characterised by a unique finder pattern located at three corners of the symbol. QR Code Version 2005 is the only version that supports GS1 system identification numbers, including Function 1 Symbol Character. QR Code symbols are read by two-dimensional imaging scanners or vision systems.
radio frequency	Any frequency within the electromagnetic spectrum associated with radio wave propagation. When a radio frequency current is supplied to an antenna, an electromagnetic field is created that then is able to propagate through space. Many wireless technologies are based on radio frequency field propagation.
radio frequency identification (RFID)	A data carrier technology that transmits information via signals in the radio frequency portion of the electromagnetic spectrum. A radio frequency identification system consists of an antenna and a transceiver, which read the radio frequency and transfer the information to a processing device, and a transponder, or tag, which is an integrated circuit containing the radio frequency circuitry and information to be transmitted.
random assortment	An assortment that comprises items that are not uniquely identified on the package and are not marked for individual sale (e.g., a bag of individually wrapped lifesavers or colours of tooth brushes).
responsible entity	The party responsible for the safety and effectiveness of the medical product at a moment in time in its lifecycle, according to the approved regulatory file (including labelling) and regulatory/legal/professional obligations associated with the medical product. (e.g., brand owner, repackager, hospital pharmacy, etc.)
RCN-8	An 8-digit Restricted Circulation Number (see Restricted Circulation Number) ~~beginning with GS1-8 Prefix 0 or 2~~.
RCN-12	A 12-digit Restricted Circulation Number (see Restricted Circulation Number).
RCN-13	A 13-digit Restricted Circulation Number (see Restricted Circulation Number).
refund receipt	A voucher produced by equipment handling empty containers (bottles and crates).
regulated healthcare retail consumer trade item	A regulated healthcare trade item to be sold to the end consumer at a regulated healthcare retail point-of-sale (pharmacy). They are identified with a GTIN-13, GTIN-12 or GTIN-8 utilising linear or 2D matrix barcodes that can be scanned by image-based scanners.
regulated healthcare non-retail consumer trade item	A consumer trade item not intended for scanning at POS and identified with a GTIN-14, GTIN-13, GTIN-12 or GTIN-8 utilising linear or 2D matrix barcodes that can be scanned by image-based scanners.
regulated healthcare trade item	Pharmaceuticals or medical devices that are sold or dispensed in a controlled environment (e.g. retail pharmacy, hospital pharmacy).

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Term	Definition
Restricted Circulation Number (RCN)	Signifies a GS1 identification number used for special applications in restricted environments, defined by the local GS1 Member Organisation (e.g., restricted within a country, company, industry). They are allocated by GS1 for either internal use by companies or to GS1 Member Organisations for assignment based on business needs in their country (e.g., variable measure product identification, couponing).
retailer zero-suppression code	A group of ID numbers (separate from Local Assigned Codes), that enable the use of UPC-E barcodes in a closed system environment (not for open supply chain applications).
returnable asset	A reusable entity owned by a company that is used for transport and storage of goods. It is identified with a GRAI.
scanner	An electronic device to read barcode and convert them into electrical signals understandable by a computer device.
separator character	Function 1 Symbol Character used to separate certain concatenated element strings, dependent on their positioning in the GS1 barcodes.
serial number	A code, numeric or alphanumeric, assigned to an individual instance of an entity for its lifetime. Example: microscope model AC-2 with serial number 1234568 and microscope model AC-2 with serial number 1234569. A unique individual item may be identified with the combined Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) and serial number.
serial reference	A component of the Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) assigned by the physical builder or brand owner of the logistic unit to create a unique SSCC.
Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC)	The GS1 identification key used to identify logistics units. The key comprises an extension digit, GS1 Company Prefix, serial reference, and check digit.
service reference	A component of the Global Service Relation Number (GSRN) assigned by the brand owner to create a unique GSRN.
service relation instance number (SRIN)	An attribute to the GSRN which allows to distinguish different encounters during the same episode, or the reuse of the same GSRN in different episodes.
shipment	A grouping of logistics and transport units assembled and identified by the seller (sender) of the goods travelling under one despatch advice and/or Bill of Lading to one customer (recipient).
short life items	An item, preparation or reconstituted product with limited use / shelf life, such as in healthcare a cytotoxic medicine, that has undergone some manipulation, such as addition of a diluent, in order to make it administrable to a specified patient.
single shipping / retail consumer trade item	A retail consumer trade item that is also regarded as a shipping item and is one to a carton (e.g. a bicycle or a television).
single unit	Single item of medicine/medical device without any package, for example the single tablet in a blister or bottle, the syringe as such.
single unit package / blister	A healthcare primary package that contains one discrete pharmaceutical dosage form, i.e. a tablet, a certain volume of a liquid or that is the immediate package for a medical device like a syringe. A number of single units may be attached to each other, but are easy to separate through a perforation.
special characters	Special characters that are designated by the symbology specification.
sterile packaging system	A combination of the sterile barrier system (the minimum package that prevents ingress of microorganisms and allows aseptic presentation of the product at the point of use) and the protective packaging (configuration of materials designed to prevent damage to the sterile barrier system and its contents until the point of use).
substrate	The material on which a barcode is printed.
subject of care	Any person who uses or is a potential user of a health care service, subjects of care may also be referred to as patients or health care consumers
supplier	The party that produces, provides, or furnishes an item or service.
symbol	The combination of symbol characters and features required by a particular symbology, including Quiet Zone, start and stop characters, data characters, and other auxiliary patterns, which together form a complete scannable entity; an instance of a symbology and a data structure.

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Term	Definition
symbol character	A group of bars and spaces in a symbol that is decoded as a single unit. It may represent an individual digit, letter, punctuation mark, control indicator, or multiple data characters.
symbol check character	A symbol character or set of bar/space patterns included within a GS1-128 or GS1 DataBar symbol, the value of which is used by the barcode reader for the purpose of performing a mathematical check to ensure the accuracy of the scanned data. It is not shown in human readable interpretation. It is not input to the barcode printer and is not transmitted by the barcode reader.
symbol contrast	An *ISO/IEC 15416* parameter that measures the difference between the largest and smallest reflectance values in a Scan Reflectance Profile (SRP).
symbology	A defined method of representing numeric or alphabetic characters in a barcode; a type of barcode.
symbology element	A character or characters in a barcode used to define the integrity and processing of the symbol itself (e.g., start and stop patterns). These elements are symbology overhead and are not part of the data conveyed by the barcode.
symbology identifier	A sequence of characters generated by the decoder (and prefixed to the decoded data transmitted by the decoder) that identifies the symbology from which the data has been decoded.
trade item	Any item (product or service) upon which there is a need to retrieve pre-defined information and that may be priced, or ordered, or invoiced at any point in any supply chain.
trade item grouping	A predefined composition of trade item(s) that is not intended for point-of-sale scanning. It is identified with a GTIN-14, GTIN-13, or GTIN-12.
trade measures	Net measures of variable measure trade items as used for invoicing (billing) the trade item.
truncation	Printing a symbol shorter than the symbology specification's minimum height recommendations. Truncation can make the symbol difficult for an operator to scan.
U.P.C. Company Prefix	A GS1 Company Prefix starting with a zero ('0') becomes a U.P.C. Company Prefix by removing the leading zero. A U.P.C. Company Prefix is used to issue GTIN-12.
U.P.C. Prefix	A GS1 Prefix starting with a zero ('0') becomes a U.P.C. Prefix by removing the leading zero. A U.P.C. Prefix is used to issue U.P.C. Company Prefixes or allocated to other specific areas.
unit load	One or more transport packages or other items contained on a platform making them suitable for transport, stacking, and storage as a unit.
unit of use	Refers to an individual unit package that is used to make up the patient-specific prescription that is prescribed for administering to a patient.
unrestricted distribution	Signifies that such system data may be applied on goods to be processed anywhere in the world without restraint as to such things as country, company, and industry.
UPC-A barcode	A barcode of the EAN/UPC symbology that encodes GTIN-12 and, ~~Coupon-12,~~ RCN-12~~, and VMN-12~~.
UPC-E barcode	A barcode of the EAN/UPC symbology representing a GTIN-12 in six explicitly encoded digits using zero-suppression techniques.
~~variable measure number (VMN)~~	~~A Restricted Circulation Number used to identify variable measure products for scanning at point-of-sale. It is defined per GS1 Member Organisation rules in their country (see VMN-12 and VMN-13).~~
variable measure trade item	A trade item which may be traded without a pre-defined measure, such as its weight or length.
~~VMN-12~~	~~The 12-digit Restricted Circulation Number encoded in UPC-A symbols to allow scanning of variable measure products at point-of-sale. It is defined per target market specific rules that are associated with U.P.C. Prefix 2.~~
~~VMN-13~~	~~The 13-digit Restricted Circulation Number encoded in EAN-13 symbols to allow scanning of variable measure products at point-of-sale. It is defined per target market specific rules that are associated with GS1 Prefixes 20 through 29.~~
weight check digit	See measure verifier digit.
wide-to-narrow ratio	The ratio between the wide elements and the narrow elements in a barcode symbology such as ITF-14 that has two different element widths.

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Term	Definition
X-dimension	The specified width of the narrowest element of a barcode.

8.2 GS1 abbreviations

Abbreviation	Term
ADC	Automatic Data Capture
AI	Application Identifier
AIDC	Automatic Identification and Data Capture
DPM	Direct Part Marking
EAN	EAN International, now called GS1
EDI	Electronic Data Interchange
EPC	Electronic Product Code
FNC1	Function 1 Symbol Character
GCN	Global Coupon Number
GDD	Global Data Dictionary
GDSN	Global Data Synchronisation Network
GDTI	Global Document Type Identifier
GEPIR	Global Electronic Party Information Registry
GIAI	Global Individual Asset Identifier
GINC	Global Identification Number for Consignment
GLN	Global Location Number
GPC	Global Product Classification
GRAI	Global Returnable Asset Identifier
GRCTI	General Retail Consumer Trade Item
GS1 key	GS1 identification key
GSIN	Global Shipment Identification Number
GSMP	Global Standards Management Process
GSRN	Global Service Relation Number
GTIN	Global Trade Item Number
HRI	Human Readable Interpretation
ISBN	International Standard Book Number
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISSN	International Standard Serial Number
LAC	Local Assigned Code
NHRN	National Healthcare Reimbursement Number
NTIN	National Trade Item Number
RCN	Restricted Circulation Number
RFID	Radio Frequency Identification
RHRCTI	Regulated healthcare retail consumer trade item
RHTI	Regulated healthcare trade item
RSS	Reduced Space Symbology

Abbreviation	Term
RZSC	Retailer Zero-Suppression Code.
SKU	Stock Keeping Unit
SRIN	Service Relation Instance Number
VMN	Variable measure number

8.3   Legacy (retired) terms

When terms are replaced or retired by GS1, they are maintained within this section for a minimum of five years. The legacy terms are supplied to point GS1 stakeholders to new terminology. The period of five years ensures harmonisation with external standards bodies whose standards make normative reference to the *GS1 General Specifications*.

Legacy Term	Current Term
Coupon-12	See RCN-12
Coupon-13	See RCN-13
EAN	GS1
EAN International	GS1 Global Office
EAN Member Organisation	GS1 Member Organisation
EAN.UCC Company Prefix	GS1 Company Prefix
EAN.UCC Prefix	GS1 Prefix
EAN.UCC XML	GS1 XML
EAN/UCC-8 Data Structure	GTIN-8
EAN/UCC-8 Identification Number	GTIN-8
EAN/UCC-12 Data Structure	See GTIN-12, Coupon-12, RCN-12, and VMN-12
EAN/UCC-12 Identification Number	See GTIN-12, GLN, GDTI, Coupon-12, RCN-12, and VMN-12
EAN/UCC-13 Data Structure	See GTIN-13, Coupon-13, RCN-13, and VMN-13
EAN/UCC-13 Identification Number	See GTIN-13, GLN, GDTI, Coupon-13, RCN-13, and VMN-13
EAN/UCC-14 Data Structure	GTIN-14
EAN/UCC-14 Identification Number	GTIN-14
Interleaved 2 of 5	ITF-14 Symbol
Item Number	Item reference
Item Reference Number	Item reference
Manufacturer's ID	No longer used
Manufacturer's Number	GS1 Company Prefix
Number System Character	See U.P.C. Prefix
Numbering Organisation (NO)	GS1 Member Organisation
print gain/loss	bar gain/loss
Reduced Space Symbology	GS1 DataBar Symbology
RSS Composite Symbology Family	GS1 DataBar Composite Symbology Family
RSS Expanded Barcode Symbol	GS1 DataBar Expanded Symbol
RSS Expanded Composite Symbology	GS1 DataBar Expanded Composite Symbology
RSS Expanded Stacked Barcode Symbol	GS1 DataBar Expanded Stacked Symbol

Legacy Term	Current Term
RSS Expanded Stacked Composite Barcode Symbol	GS1 DataBar Expanded Stacked Composite Symbology
RSS Limited Barcode symbol	GS1 DataBar Limited Symbol
RSS Limited Composite Symbology	GS1 DataBar Limited Composite Symbology
RSS Omnidirectional	GS1 DataBar Retail POS family
RSS-14 Barcode Symbol	GS1 DataBar Omnidirectional Symbol
RSS-14 Composite Symbology	GS1 DataBar Composite Symbology
RSS-14 Stacked Barcode Symbol	GS1 DataBar Stacked Symbol
RSS-14 Stacked Composite Symbology	GS1 DataBar Stacked Composite Symbology
Secondary Data for Specific Health Industry Products	This Application Identifier was retired in 2013.
SCC-14	Global Trade Item Number
SSCC Serial Number	Serial Reference
standard numbering structures	data structure
Symbol Control Character	symbology element
UCC	GS1 US
UCC Company Prefix	U.P.C. Company Prefix
UCC Prefix	U.P.C. Prefix
UCC-12 Data Structure	See GTIN-12, ~~GDTI-12, Coupon -12,~~ RCN-12~~, and VMN-12~~
UCC-12 Identification Number	See GTIN-12, ~~GDTI-12, Coupon -12,~~ RCN-12~~, and VMN-12~~
Uniform Code Council, Inc.	GS1 US
Variable Measure Retail Item	See RCN
variable measure number (VMN)	See restricted circulation number (RCN)
VMN-12	See RCN-12
VMN-13	See RCN-13