

WR #	GSCN Name	Effective Date
18-200	SSCC mandatory attributes	1 Nov 2018

Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

18-200

Background:**Business Problem**

- Section 2.2.1 wrongly states that the SSCC requires attributes.
- The text also suggests that while, in principle, an SSCC could work as the key to all the information required about the logistics unit, most users would be sensible to provide attribute data.
- The text then goes on to explain that, despite this implied encouragement, the healthcare sector does not want AIs 02 and 37 to be used with the SSCC when it is used to identify logistics units for regulated healthcare trade items.
- A briefer explanation about healthcare requirements is still required.

Scope WR

- Section 2.2.1 is the only section that needs to be changed.
- The GS1 Logistics Label guideline does not include the suggestion that attributes are required with the SSCC.

GS1 General Specification Change:

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

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2.2 Logistic units

A logistic unit is an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be managed through the supply chain.

Tracking and tracing logistic units in the supply chain is a major application of the GS1 system. Scanning the standard identification number, marked on each logistic unit, allows the physical movement of units to be individually tracked and traced by providing a link between the physical movement of items and the associated information flow. It also opens up the opportunity to implement a wide range of applications, such as cross docking, shipment routing, and automated receiving.

Logistic units are identified with a GS1 identification number called the SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code). The SSCC is the only GS1 key that SHALL be used as the identifier of a logistic unit. The SSCC ensures that logistic units are identified with a number that is unique worldwide.

If, in addition to being a logistic unit, the item is regarded as a trade item by the brand owner, it may additionally be identified with a GTIN. The combination of a GTIN and a serial number must not replace the SSCC as the identifier of a logistic unit.

If, in addition to being a logistic unit, the item is part of a consignment and or a shipment, it may also be associated with the GINC and or the GSIN.

Attribute information, such as a Global Identification Number for Consignment, AI (401), may be optionally encoded using internationally agreed data structures and a barcode symbology that allow unambiguous interpretation.

2.2.1 Individual logistic units

Application description

A logistic unit is an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be managed through the supply chain. The identification and symbol marking of logistic units enables a large number of user applications. In particular, the SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code) provides a link between the physical logistic unit and information pertaining to the logistic unit that is communicated between trading partners using Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

The SSCC element string AI (00) is used for the identification of logistic units (see section 3). Each individual logistic unit is allocated a unique number, which remains the same for the life of the logistic unit. When assigning an SSCC, the rule is that an individual SSCC number must not be reallocated within one year of the shipment date from the SSCC assignor to a trading partner. However, prevailing regulatory or industry organisation specific requirements may extend this period.

In principle, the SSCC provides a unique reference number that can be used as the key to access information regarding the logistic unit in computer files. However, attributes relating to the logistic unit (e.g., ship to information, logistic weights) are also available as standardised element strings.

GS1 key

Definition Required

~~The SSCC is the GS1 identification key used to identify logistics units. The key is comprised of an extension digit, the GS1 Company Prefix, serial reference, and check digit.~~

The GS1 Application Identifier for the SSCC is AI (00), see section 3.2, for details of the SSCC and associated data elements.

Rules

All SSCC rules described in section 4.2.2.

Attributes

Required

Not applicable

Fixed measure AI (02) or routing code AI (403) are used when:

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- A logistic unit is a grouping of trade items, it is sometimes useful to indicate the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) of the contained items in association with the SSCC. See section [3.2](#), *Identification of trade items contained in a logistic unit – fixed measure*, AI (02), and *Count of trade items contained in a logistic unit*, AI (37).
- Use of AI (02) and AI (37) with SSCC AI (00) is not the preferred option for regulated healthcare trade items. For regulated healthcare trade items, AI (02) + AI (37) is limited to bilateral use between trading partners for exception handling during a migration period to EDI implementation or if the product is sold as a non-regulated trade item within a retail distribution channel for certain markets. SSCC is the approach selected by healthcare and provides the appropriate level of identification when associated with EDI messaging to provide traceability inclusive of count for trade items contained. SSCC when associated with EDI is required for identification purposes to reach our extended goals for traceability.
- The routing code, AI (403), is assigned by a parcel carrier. It is intended to provide a migration path to the adoption of a yet to be defined international, multi-modal solution. See section [3.2](#), *Routing code*, AI (403).

Optional

The use of attribute information on logistic units is optional. However, when used, attribute information SHOULD be processed with the SSCC that identifies the logistic unit.

- The element string *Ship to – Deliver to Global Location Number*, AI (410) has been designed to allow the automatic sortation of logistic units using the Global Location Number (GLN).
- The element string *Ship for – Deliver for – Forward to Global Location Number*, AI (413), has been designed to allow the cross-docking of logistic units using the Global Location Number (GLN). It is used in conjunction with the element string AI (410) to indicate the cross-docking station and the final destination of the logistic unit.
- The element string *Ship to – Deliver to Postal Code within a Single Postal Authority*, AI (420) has been designed to allow the automatic sortation of logistic units using the postal code in a single postal area.
- The element string *Ship to – Deliver to Postal Code with Three-Digit ISO Country Code*, AI (421) has been designed to allow the automatic sortation of logistic units using the postal code. As the postal code is prefixed by the ISO country code, it may be used internationally.

[For all the GS1 Application Identifiers that may be used with an SSCC, see section 3.2 for more details and the list of all GS1 Application Identifiers.](#)

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Note: Although the use of AI (02), *Identification of trade items contained*, and AI (37), *Count of trade items contained*, is common in some sectors to describe the content of a logistic unit, the healthcare sector prefers the use of the SSCC alone. The SSCC is used with EDI communications to enable identification and traceability.

Rules

Refer to section [4.14](#) for the mandatory associations.

Data carrier specification

Carrier choices

The mandatory data carrier used to represent GS1 system individual logistic units is the GS1-128 barcode symbology.

For healthcare, see the recommendations at the end of section [2.1.6](#) in figure [2.1.6-2 Carrier choices](#).

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

See section [5.9.3.5](#), *GS1 symbol specification table 5*.

Symbol placement

All the symbol placement guidelines defined in section [6](#).