



GSMP:

General Specifications Change Notification (GSCN)

The Global Language of Business

WR #	GSCN Name	Effective Date
19-060	GTIN Uniqueness	17 April 2019

Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

19-060

Background:

The General Specification has been updated to clarify the brand owner’s responsibility for managing the non-duplication of batch/lot and serial numbers in section 3.4.1 AI (10) and section 3.5.2 AI(21).

GS1 General Specification Change:

The recommended changes are highlighted below, relative to GS1 General Specifications version 19.1

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3.4.1 Batch or lot number: AI (10)

The GS1 Application Identifier (10) indicates that the GS1 Application Identifier data field contains a batch or lot number. The batch or lot number associates an item with information the manufacturer considers relevant for traceability of the trade item to which the element string is applied. The data may refer to the trade item itself or to items contained. The number may be, for example, a production lot number, a shift number, a machine number, a time, or an internal production code. [In cases where the same product is manufactured in different locations the brand owner and the manufacturer are responsible for ensuring the non-duplication of batch/lot numbers for a GTIN. For the re-use of batch/lot numbers with a GTIN, sector-specific constraints need to be considered.](#)

The data is alphanumeric and may include all characters contained in figure 7.11-1.

Note: The batch or lot number is not part of the unique identification of a trade item.

Figure 0-1. Format of the element string

GS1 Application Identifier	Batch or lot number
1 0	X ₁ —————> variable length —————> X ₂₀

The data transmitted by the barcode reader means that the element string denoting a batch or lot number has been captured. As this element string is an attribute of a particular item, it must be processed together with the GTIN of the trade item to which it relates (see section 4.14.2). When indicating this element string in the non-HRI text section of a barcode label, the following data title SHOULD be used: **BATCH/LOT**

3.5.2 Serial number: AI (21)

The GS1 Application Identifier (21) indicates that the GS1 Application Identifier data field contains a serial number. A serial number is assigned to an entity for its lifetime. When combined with a GTIN, a serial number uniquely identifies an individual item. ~~The serial number field is alphanumeric and may include all characters contained in figure 7.11. 1.~~ The [brand owner and the manufacturer are responsible for ensuring the non-duplication of](#) ~~determines the~~ serial numbers [for a GTIN. For the re-use of serial numbers with a GTIN, sector-specific constraints need to be considered.](#)

The serial number field is alphanumeric and may include all characters contained in figure 7.11.-1.

Figure 0-1. Format of the element string

GS1 Application Identifier	Serial number
2 1	X ₁ ————— variable length —————> X ₂₀

The data transmitted from the barcode reader means that the element string denoting a serial number has been captured. As this element string is an attribute of a trade item, it must be processed together with the GTIN of the trade item to which it relates (see section 4.14 Data relationships).

When indicating this element string in the non-HRI text section of a barcode label, the following data title SHOULD be used: **SERIAL**