WR #	GSCN Name	Effective Date
20-061	GLN non-reuse: Initiation & Effectuation	Feb 2021

Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

WR-20-000061

Background:

When an identifier is reused, it can no longer claim uniqueness. When the identifier is used in a transaction, there is always a risk that previous versions will be remain in systems and associated records. Parties and locations (and their associated data attributes) endure in digital/online records far longer than they may remain active. Ceasing the reuse of GLN allows for consistent, reliable, and persistent unique party and location information to support global stakeholder use cases.

This GSCN contains two (2) parts that will occur at different times. These sequential updates are being combined as they both directly relate to the same piece of work.

1. Initial notification that will alert stakeholders of forthcoming GLN non-reuse effectuation (page 3)
2. Update that will occur once GLN non-reuse takes effect *after* the 12-month transition time (pages 4-6)

4 Application rules and management practices

4.6 GLN rules

4.6.1 Allocating Global Location Numbers

4.6.1.6 Lead time in reusing a Global Location Number

A Global Location Number (GLN) that has been previously used and has become obsolete must not be reused for another location until at least 48 months have elapsed. A longer period may be needed in accordance with government requirements, such as invoicing and taxation, or requirements related to the nature of the location (e.g., a bonded warehouse). This period provides time for all references of the old GLN to be removed from trading partner files.

All issuers of Global Location Numbers (GLNs) must ensure that GLNs allocated for locations used in the healthcare supply chain SHALL never be reused, e.g., locations where treatment of patients takes place, etc.

Important: The standard for GLN reuse will be changed on 1 July 2022. On that date, a GLN allocated to a party and/or location SHALL NOT be reallocated to another party and/or location. It is recommended that GLN reuse cease in advance of 1 July 2022 as soon as companies can transition their practices. If reuse is not currently occurring, it SHOULD NOT be started. The only exceptions to the GLN non-reuse rules will include:

- If the GLN was never published in an externally accessible manner (e.g., to a registry or directly to a trading partner), it may be reused immediately.

- Parties and/or locations that have been withdrawn and are reintroduced may use the original GLN if they are reintroduced without any modifications or changes that require a new GLN as specified by the GS1 GLN Allocation Rules Standard.

Note: These rules are intended for global use. Exceptions may occur only when local regulatory or legal requirements mandate otherwise.

4.2 Rules for keys

The tables in the sub-sections below summarise the rules for each of the GS1 identification keys.

4.2.4 GLN rules

Rules	Section/Link
Allocation general rule	*4.6.1.1*
Assigning GLN values	*4.6.1.2*
Relocations	*4.6.1.3*
Grouping of Global Location Numbers	*4.6.1.4*
Locations without Global Location Numbers	*4.6.1.5*
GLN non-reuse	*4.6.2*
Information associated with a Global Location Number	*3*
GLN Allocation Rules	*4*
GLN Allocation Rules Standard	*https://www.gs1.org/1/glnrules*

4.3 GLN rules

4.3.1 Allocating Global Location Numbers

4.3.2 GLN non-reuse

An allocated GLN SHALL NOT be reallocated to another party and/or location. The only exceptions are:

- If the GLN was never published in an externally accessible manner (e.g., to a registry or directly to a trading partner), it may be reused immediately

- Parties and/or locations that have been withdrawn and are reintroduced may use the original GLN if they are reintroduced without any modifications or changes that require a new GLN as specified by the GS1 GLN Allocation Rules Standard

The GLN non-reuse rule went into effect on 1 July 2022. GLNs discontinued and withdrawn from systems prior to 1 July 2022 may be considered for reuse one final time (*). However, companies are strongly advised to follow the non-reuse rule for **all** GLNs to avoid risks of conflicting data.

(*) If a GLN was withdrawn prior to 1 July 2022, the previously applicable rules must be adhered to (see section 4.17.2 *Deprecated GLN reuse rules*).

Note: These rules are intended for global use. Exceptions may occur only when local regulatory or legal requirements mandate otherwise.

4.17   Deprecated rules

This section contains rules that have been deprecated. The deprecated rules are included as reference for pre-existing situations where the rules may still apply.

4.17.1   Deprecated GTIN reuse rules

These rules are deprecated as of 1 January 2019.

A GTIN allocated to a trade item that has become obsolete must not be reused for another trade item until at least 48 months have elapsed after:

■   the expiration date of the last original trade items produced with that number

  -or-

■   the last original trade items produced with that number have been supplied to the customer.

The following sector-specific rules apply:

■   Apparel: In the case of clothing the minimum retention period is reduced to 30 months.

■   Healthcare: Companies must ensure that GTINs allocated to regulated healthcare trade items SHALL never be reused.

  Exception: regulated healthcare trade items that have been withdrawn from the market and are reintroduced may use the original GTIN if they are reintroduced without any modifications or changes which require a new GTIN as specified by the *GTIN Management Standard*.

■   Technical industries: GTINs that are marked directly on components and parts, such as used in rail rolling stock and infrastructure, SHALL never be reused (also see *2.6.14*).

For other trade items, brand owners should consider a longer period depending upon the type of goods and/or any regulatory framework. For example, steel beams may be stored for many years before entering the supply chain, and processes should be put in place to ensure that the GTIN is not reallocated for a significant period of time.

In addition, when contemplating the reuse of a GTIN, consideration should be given to the use of data associated with the original GTIN by trading partners for statistical analysis or service records, which may continue long after the original trade item was last supplied.

If a GTIN has been assigned to an item, which was then never actually produced, the GTIN may be deleted from any catalogue immediately without first being marked as discontinued. In this exceptional case the GTIN may be reused 12 months after deletion from the seller's catalogue.

4.17.2   Deprecated GLN reuse rules

These rules are deprecated as of 1 July 2022.

A Global Location Number (GLN) that has been previously used and has become obsolete must not be reused for another location until at least 48 months have elapsed. A longer period may be needed in accordance with government requirements, such as invoicing and taxation, or requirements related to the nature of the location (e.g., a bonded warehouse). This period provides time for all references of the old GLN to be removed from trading partner files.

All issuers of Global Location Numbers (GLNs) must ensure that GLNs allocated for locations used in the healthcare supply chain SHALL never be reused, e.g., locations where treatment of patients takes place, etc.