



The Global Language of Business

GS1 Fresh Foods and Upstream GTIN Allocation Rules Standard

GTIN Allocation Rules for the Fresh Foods and Upstream Sectors

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1 Introduction

The Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) provides a global supply chain solution by identifying any trade item that may be priced, or ordered, or invoiced at any point in the supply chain upon which there is a need to retrieve pre-defined information.

The GS1 Fresh Foods and Upstream Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) Allocation Rules Standard are focused on the additional rules that may be needed when operating in these sectors. These are in addition to the [GTIN Management Standard](#) that are designed to help industry make consistent decisions about the unique identification of trade items in open supply chains, but are focused on their specific industries.

This standard has been developed in accordance with the GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) and are considered a part of the GS1 system of standards. Overall, costs are minimised when all partners in the supply chain adhere to the GTIN Management Standards.

Unique identification of trade items is critical to maintaining operational efficiencies that business partners rely on to exchange information about products in consistent ways, as well as ensuring the smooth operations of global supply chains. Additionally, the unique identification of trade items is crucial when complying with various regulations across the globe. Finally, unique identification as well as communication between trading partners of those changes are essential to ensure the right product is made available on the store shelf or is presented and fulfilled properly from an e-commerce platform to the consumer.

1.1 GS1 standards and legal/regulatory compliance

The [GTIN Management Standard](#) represent a minimum requirement. Please be advised that there may be regulation(s) in your market area that are more stringent and SHALL be adhered to.

All local legal and regulatory requirements supersede the [GTIN Management Standard](#).

1.2 GTIN Management Standard and brand owner discretion

The [GTIN Management Standard](#) represent the minimum GTIN changes that industry has decided upon. Brand owners may change the GTIN as often as they think is appropriate based upon their needs as well as the needs of their consumers and trading partners, considering the guiding principles defined in the [GTIN Management Standard](#).

2 Fresh foods

These specific rules apply to fresh foods which includes product categories such as: fruits, vegetables, meat, seafood, bakery and ready-to-serve food such as cheeses, cold cooked or cured meats, and salad, etc.

2.1 Difference in weight

Fresh pre-packed package item differs in weight

Where a fresh food pre-packed package item differs in weight, is sold by weight but ordered by specific separate pack size a new / unique GTIN will be assigned to each type of pack size.

Rules

- New GTIN - Retail Consumer Trade Item
- N/A - Trade Item Grouping

Rationale

Pre-packaged chicken drumsticks, each package differs in weight, sold by weight but ordered by specific pack size (GTIN A = 10pk and GTIN B = 14pk)



GTIN A



GTIN B

Consequence if rule not applied

GTIN assignment would be inaccurate

2.2 Sold individually then cut and sold by weight

Loose produce item is sold as an each (individual piece) then cut and sold weight

Where a loose produce item is sold as an each (product 1), then cut and packaged to be sold by weight (product 2), product 1 and 2 require separate unique GTINs.

Rules

- New GTIN - Retail Consumer Trade Item
- N/A - Trade Item Grouping

Rationale

A whole watermelon is sold for \$4.00 each. The retailer decides to cut the watermelon into halves and sell the quarters for \$1.99 per kilo/pound



Product 1 with GTIN C



Product 2 with GTIN D

Consequence if rule not applied

GTIN assignment would be inaccurate

2.3 Item sold individually or by weight

Loose produce item is sold as an each (individual piece) or weight.

Where a loose produce item is sold as an each or weight (product 3), is then packaged in-store and sold as a fixed measure (product 4), product 3 and 4 require separate unique GTINs.

Rules

- New GTIN - Retail Consumer Trade Item
- N/A - Trade Item Grouping

Rationale

An apple sold by each or weight for 1.29 per kilo/pound. It is then packed in-store as a fixed measure container and sold at 3.00 for a 6-pack of apples.



Product 3 with GTIN E



Product 4 with GTIN F

Consequence if rule not applied

GTIN assignment would be inaccurate

2.4 Bulk items

Fresh bulk items not intended for Point-of-Sale

Where a bulk fresh food item of fixed or variable measure, not intended for Point-of-Sale, (product 5), is cut and packaged in-store and sold by weight (product 6), product 5 and 6 will require separate GTINs based on the requirement to use Indicator digit 9 in a GTIN-14 on product 5 and the requirement to use GTIN-12 or GTIN-13 on product 6 because it will be scanned at Point-of-Sale.

Rules

- New GTIN - Retail Consumer Trade Item
- N/A - Trade Item Grouping

Rationale

Example 1: A wheel of cheese (not intended for Point-of-Sale) is ordered by a GTIN-14 inclusive of Indicator digit 9, is cut and packaged in variable weight packages in the deli department and sold by weight, will require a new GTIN, either GTIN-12 or GTIN-13 at Point-of-Sale.



Product 5 with GTIN G



Product 6 with GTIN H

Example 2: Bulk chicken breast (not intended for POS) is ordered by a GTIN-14 inclusive of Indicator digit 9, then packaged into individual variable weight packages and sold by weight, will require a new GTIN, either GTIN-12 or GTIN-13 at Point-of-Sale.



Product 7 with GTIN I



Product 8 GTIN J

Consequence if rule not applied

GTIN assignment would be inaccurate

2.5 Items placed in a bag

Loose produce item placed in a bag

Where a loose produce item (product 9) is placed in a bag (product 10) by the consumer, product 9 and 10 have the same GTIN.

Rules

- Same GTIN - Retail Consumer Trade Item
- N/A - Trade Item Grouping



Rationale

Loose Produce items presented for sale at the POS, either individually or in a bag (placed by the consumer) will be identified with the same GTIN. Placing the loose produce items in a bag by the consumer does not change the GTIN.

Consequence if rule not applied

GTIN assignment would be inaccurate

3 Upstream

These specific rules apply to packaging and raw material trade items supplied to manufacturing companies. Upstream suppliers are those companies that typically supply or manufacture trade items that are supplied to other companies for further processing. Examples of these trade items include raw ingredient and packaging materials.

3.1 Different logistical size

3.1.1 Trade item sold in variable measure varies in total weight

Trade item sold in variable measure varies in total weight

Trade item sold in variable measure varies in total weight.

Rules

- Same GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

All identification includes the measure as an attribute of the GTIN, so no new GTIN is required (See GS1 General Specifications for further guidance on variable measure items).

Consequence if rule not applied

Unnecessary introduction of new GTINs.

3.1.2 Trade item supplied in new size

Trade item supplied in new size

Trade item supplied in new size.

Rules

New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

Different sized trade items must have different GTINs.

Consequence if rule not applied

Impossible to distinguish between different sizes of trade item.

3.1.3 Major packaging change

Major packaging change

Any dimensional change of more than 20%, but net weight remains unchanged.

Rules

- New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

Inventory and logistics systems need to be updated to ensure optimal space allocation.

Consequence if rule not applied

20% rule meets reasonability test (e.g. 0% is unacceptable to suppliers, and 100% is unacceptable to customers.) Note: Any change in Net Declared Weight requires a new GTIN.

3.1.4 Same trade item but...

Same trade item but different handling parameters

Same trade item but different handling parameters, e.g. change of container or packaging.

Rules

- Same GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

The trade item is unaffected by how it is delivered.

Consequence if rule not applied

Unnecessary introduction of new GTINs.

3.2 Different substance

3.2.1 New specification

New specification for the trade item

The party that assigns the GTIN has issued a new specification for the trade item.

Rules

- New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

Trade item must be distinguished from previous trade item.

Consequence if rule not applied

Old and new trade items are confused with each other.

3.2.2 Variations in the grade - trade item

Variations in the grade of the trade item

Variations in the grade of the trade item.

Rules

- New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

Different grades of a trade item must be distinguished from one another.

Consequence if rule not applied

Different grades are confused with one another.

3.2.3 Specifications vary within parameters

Specification varies within the parameters of the party assigning the GTIN

Trade item specification varies within the parameters of the party assigning the GTIN.

Rules

- Same GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

The trade item still falls within the specification defined for trading purposes so no new GTIN is required. The supplier could use the Application Identifier for Product Variant (AI (20)) to distinguish the technical improvement.

Consequence if rule not applied

Unnecessary introduction of new GTINs.

3.2.4 Print design change

Trade item is printed packaging material, and print design has changed

The trade item is printed packaging material, and the print design has changed.

Rules

- New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

The change in print design will affect where and how the trade item can be used in the manufacturing process.

Consequence if rule not applied

Unable to ensure that correct packaging is used for the appropriate production process and batch.

3.2.5 Different finishing

Different finishing

Different finishing (e.g., a trade item is finished or converted to order).

Rules

- New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

The final conversion produces different trade item which must be separately identified.

Consequence if rule not applied

Unable to distinguish between different trade items.

3.3 Different trading partners

3.3.1 Supplier change - supplier assigned GTIN

Change of supplier and GTIN assigned by supplier

Change of supplier and the GTIN is assigned by the supplier.

Rules

- New GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

Each supplier's trade items need to be identified separately from those of another supplier.

Consequence if rule not applied

Impossible to track and trace trade items manufactured or supplied by different companies.

3.3.2 Supplier change - customer assigned GTIN***Change of supplier and GTIN assigned by customer***

Change of supplier and the GTIN is assigned by the customer.

Rules

- Same GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

The trade item is specified by the customer who allocates the GTIN to the trade item.

Consequence if rule not applied

Unnecessary introduction of new GTINs.

3.3.3 Customer change - supplier assigned GTIN***Change of customer and GTIN assigned by supplier***

Change of customer and the GTIN is assigned by the supplier.

Rules

- Same GTIN - Trade Item

Rationale

The trade item is unaffected by the change in customer.

Consequence if rule not applied

Unnecessary introduction of new GTINs.