PRESS RELEASE

GS1 delivers new lightweight messaging standard for verification of product identifiers

Streamlined framework leverages GS1 Digital Link and JavaScript Object Notation ("JSON")

Brussels. 5 February 2019. GS1, the global supply chain standards organisation, has launched a new messaging standard. Developed and vetted by a global GS1 workgroup comprised of manufacturers, distributors and solution providers, this new standard specifies a lightweight messaging framework for product verification request and response. With this development, supply chain partners will be able to verify that a product in their possession is suitable for forward distribution. Manufacturer verification of the product identifier and associated data will give supply chain stakeholders actionable information helping them to determine whether to accept, reject or quarantine a product.

"In record time, GS1 has delivered a standard that fully meets our needs. It will facilitate our ability to manage interoperability between trading partners within US regulations surrounding salable returns, while incorporating the use of Global Trade Item Numbers ("GTINs") and Global Location Numbers ("GLNs") for identification of products and parties. Moreover, it is a standard extensible for use in other sectors or additional use cases that likely will come for Healthcare", said **Jeff Denton, Senior Director, IT Global Secure Supply Chain at AmerisourceBergen.**

From 27 November 2019, the US Drug Supply Chain Security ACT (DSCSA) will require wholesalers and distributors to verify the unique identifier of returned products before these can be placed into inventory for resale. A manufacturer who receives a verification request from a repackager, wholesale distributor or dispenser will be obliged to respond to that request within 24 hours. Against this backdrop, pharmaceutical supply chain trading partners asked GS1 to develop a verification messaging standard.

"Workgroup members and industry stakeholders should be commended for coming together so quickly to develop and agree upon a standard that aids pharmaceutical, and potentially all industries, create a safer supply chain," said **Siobhan O'Bara, Senior Vice President, Community Engagement, GS1 US**. "The new messaging standard is a significant advancement in driving visibility and helping trading partners authenticate unique product identifiers and data elements to assess product viability."

Potential use in different sectors worldwide

Although this standard was driven by pharmaceutical regulatory requirements in the US, it has been developed as a generic lightweight framework that will support re-use and extension for other product sectors (e.g., food, components in technical industries), in all geographic regions.

This standard is a new addition to the "Share" layer of GS1 standards. At a high level, the request/response is a form of transactional messaging, albeit without a direct link to existing GS1 Electronic Data Interchange ("EDI") standards. This is the first GS1 standard to include JSON as a message response syntax; it is also the first GS1 standard to leverage the new GS1 Digital Link (Web URI) standard for the request syntax.

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About GS1

GS1® is a neutral, not-for-profit organisation that provides global standards for efficient business communication. We are best known for the barcode, named in 2016 by the BBC as one of "the 50 things that made the world economy." GS1 standards improve the efficiency, safety and visibility of supply chains across physical and digital channels in 25 sectors. We enable organisations of all types and sizes to identify, capture and share information seamlessly. Our scale and reach – local Member Organisations in 112 countries, 1.5 million user companies and 5 billion transactions every day – help ensure that GS1 standards create a common language that supports systems and processes across the globe. Find out more at www.gs1.org