What business challenges are being solved?

Global Location Number (GLN) is used within the GS1 system to answer “who?” and “where?” throughout business. Existing standards are not able to fully address current and future use case needs. For GLN to work for those who need it, existing standards need to be enhanced and new standards will need to be developed. This will enable trading partners to create, manage, share and use the GLN to meet their party and location needs in a scalable, standardised manner.

Background

GLN Reuse and Rules

It is important that those looking to leverage GLN have clear standards on how to ensure their identifiers are unique, persistent and able to be used where needed. The first part of this is preventing GLNs from being reused.

Today, when the GLN is used, there is always a risk that previous versions of the GLN (and its associated data attributes) will remain in systems as digital/online records far longer than anticipated. As a result, this MSWG will be tasked updating the standards so that GLN cannot be reused in any industry.

Knowing what changes prompt a new GLN is important. There is a great opportunity to apply best practices learned from the GTIN Management Standard to the situations unique to GLN. This will result in streamlined, simplified rules based on guiding principles.

GLN Data Model

Solutions and services are being developed throughout the world to share party and location information associated to GLNs. Currently, there is no thorough, standardised set of globally recognised attributes that can be leveraged to ensure the data being shared is complete, interoperable, and able to scale with business needs. Without a globally standardised data model in place for GLN, services and solutions will continue to deviate and prevent interoperable sharing of the location and party information needed by businesses.
Impact

- Partners throughout the supply/value chain will have clear, complete guidance on when to change a GLN in a format that has been tested and proven throughout industry via the GTIN Management Standard.
- Globally standardised GLN attribution will enable industry to readily share party/location data with a high degree of interoperability.
- Industry will be able to use the same set of standards, no matter where they do business.
- Standards work will increase the overall value proposition tied to GLN to facilitate increased adoption of the key.
- GS1 will expand its global, collaborative network reach through smart partnerships and integration with other systems through attribution.

Why is this work needed?

The GS1 standard and globally aligned approach is needed to address industry’s need for improved standards on GLN, otherwise GS1 system will continue experiencing issues with unique party and location information from GLN reuse, misunderstanding of GLN allocation rules, and a lack of globally recognised GLN attributes.

Working group objectives

GLN non-reuse
- Stop the reuse of GLN, that will allow for consistent, reliable, and persistent unique party and location information to support global stakeholder use cases.

Modernise GLN Allocation Rules
- Improve GLN and begin to treat the allocation and management of GS1 keys consistently throughout GS1 standards. Create clear guidelines and rules with cross-country relevance that can support industry’s needs.

Develop a data model for GLN
- Develop an initial set of GLN globally aligned attributes that can be used to meet use case needs.

Who should join this working group?

Manufacturers, retailers, raw materials producers, healthcare providers, logistic and transportation operators, government representatives and GS1 Member Organisations

Participants should be familiar with party/location use cases and the standards for allocation and management of GLNs.

How will the working group operate?

Two, separate workstreams will be working in parallel. Those looking to join can participate in both workstreams or only one.

- GLN Reuse and Rules Workstream
  - Familiarity with GLN allocation, management, and overall GS1 identification is beneficial, but not required.
- GLN Data Model Workstream
  - Knowledge of data models and attribution is beneficial, but not required.

Next Steps

- Join the working group by 14 August 2020: Link
- Kick-off: 03 September 2020

Help, questions, or need for more information, please contact:
Email: GSMP@GS1.org