



## Call To Action

# Join GS1 and industry to refresh and update the GS1 Global Traceability Standard (GTS2)

For more than a decade, the GS1 Global Traceability Standard has helped industry to frame and guide the implementation of traceability solutions. This document has supported countless solution implementations. Because a lot has changed since its initial publication, it's time to refresh the content of this important resource.

### Background

New drivers have emerged, such as the need for increased transparency between trading partners and with consumers.

Food safety regulations and demands for ethical sourcing and sustainable farming practices are driving increasingly stringent requirements. Authorities, suppliers and buyers, as well as end users, consumers and patients are all demanding fast, accurate and complete traceability information.

The business challenges that relate to traceability solutions are increasing in number and complexity, and industry needs the GS1 Global Traceability Standard to be up-to-date and accurate.

GTS 2 will make reference to new technical possibilities that have been developed since the original publication of the GTS (such as EPCIS). There will be references to new data and event-sharing architectures that were not available when the first version of GTS was authored, such as the possibility to connect databases and to search for information in the "cloud".

In 2006, GS1 published the first GS1 Global Traceability Standard. At that time, the first step of gaining alignment across industry and countries on what "traceability" concretely meant for an economic operator was a major achievement.

Over the years, the Global Traceability Standard has been used as a reference document and as the basis for capacity-building on every continent.

Now it's time to make the GTS2 document even more valuable. It will become an easy-to-read set of traceability principles and core requirements. It will form the foundation for a consultative methodology to help design and implement standards-based traceability systems.

The result will be a document that can be read and understood by persons not familiar with Traceability or with GS1 Standards (as well as by experts). The scope of GTS 2 will remain global and multi-sectorial, and so continue to form a basis for implementations in all industries and geographies.

The purpose of the work is **not** to develop significant new normative standards content, such as developing or enhancing specific technology standards (EPCIS, EDI, etc.).

Rather, this work aims to deliver a document that will help to communicate complex topics in a more easily-understood way, using a methodology that works independent of the business challenge that one might be facing.

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*GS1 has initiated the development of the GS1 Global Traceability Standard version 2 (GTS2)—an effort to simplify how we talk about traceability and how we explain the importance of the GS1 System in the design and deployment of traceability systems. GTS 2 will enable industry to evaluate business challenges with a consistent framework and to select and leverage the components of the GS1 System they need to solve those challenges.*

## Our Starting Point

The GTS2 will be a reference document that connects the reader to appropriate standards and supporting services...so that they can create their own solutions or be connected to parties that will help them with their implementations.

We see this work as a critical foundational step in refreshing the overall GS1 traceability offering. We expect that the final product will be a document that can be used by industry to quickly and accurately understand the questions that they need to ask to evaluate the traceability challenges that they are facing.

It will be:

- Designed as a simple and user-friendly methodology
- Based on GS1 standards
- Relevant for all industries that GS1 serves

**We have developed an initial draft GTS2 document, based on inputs received from more than 10 countries and a few industry leaders. This draft will be submitted to the Working Group as input to the development process.**

## Who we need

The ENTIRE scope of this Working Group is the finalisation of the GTS2 document. Because work will not focus on the technical aspects of "HOW" to do traceability, and because this document is expected to contain very little new normative content, we are not expecting to require deep subject matter expertise on topics such as EPCIS, EDI, or other deeply-technical topics.

Of course, all are welcome to join this working group, and we are looking to ensure that we have broad representation from across industry sectors.

**We specifically need people that are skilled at "telling the story" of WHY standards-based Traceability is essential to scalable and future-proof implementations. We also need consultants and solution providers with experience in implementation of traceability solutions.**

*GS1 standards are the common language for systems that demand interoperability across the chain. As your business grows, your standards-based traceability solutions can grow to serve new business needs.*

## Getting Involved

If you are interested being a part of this work, please contact GS1 directly, via the links provided below...so that we may ensure that you are directly connected to the Working Group as soon as it is officially opened for participation.

If you would like to attend the first face-to-face meeting of the group that will work on this document, please register for the GS1 Standards Event in New York on March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> by following this link:

<http://standards-event.gs1.org/>

Also, please book your hotel before 3 March to ensure the early booking rate. Your hotel can be booked on the same site.

## Joining the Group

To formally join the group, please follow this link to register yourself in the GS1 GSMP system:

<http://community.gs1.org/join/>

Also, ensure that you/your organization has signed the required IP documents for participation. The GS1 Intellectual Property Policy can be eSigned [here](#) and Work Group Opt-In Agreement can be eSigned [here](#)

Request to join the group [here](#).

To learn more about this work, please contact:

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