Global Standards Management Process

Effective Rail component life cycle management

Application Standard for rail components and equipment
Mission-specific working group - Call to Action

What business challenges are being solved?

The rail industry is challenged to improve safety, reliability and quality. Rail operators must improve vehicle repair and maintenance processes. Infrastructure managers, which oversee rail networks, must similarly improve rail and equipment maintenance processes. Manufacturers increasingly require actual usage data from the field to drive continuous product improvement and quickly identify series faults in their products, which may drive recalls. These processes, known as maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) are the focus of this initiative.

Recent European legislation requires industry to develop and implement systems that guarantee safe and stable transport operations. While risk management and safety have always been at the core of the rail sector, these regulations seek to address challenges of a more open and international rail network.

A key enabler is the ability to monitor and share data regarding critical assets and components among the Rail stakeholders.

Today's rail industry is global, with rail operators and rail network managers, such as Deutsche Bahn and SNCF, as well as multi-national equipment manufacturers, including Siemens and Alstom, relying on an international worldwide network of component and assembly suppliers. As a result, MRO processes are increasingly complex, driving the need for greater interoperability and data sharing among rail stakeholders. GS1 standards that enable this sharing of data about critical components and equipment can help the rail industry meet these business needs.

Working Group objectives

The objective of the MRO in Rail working group is to develop a new global industry GS1 Application Standard describing the cross organizational MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) process, what data needs to be exchanged and transfer mechanisms for the exchange of the data. This standard will also define data attributes necessary to track individual components, the actions performed on them and their state and condition information throughout their life cycle.

The GSMP is a community-based forum for businesses facing similar problems to work together and develop standards-based solutions to address them. Active GSMP participants represent industries ranging from retail and consumer goods to fresh foods, healthcare, transport and logistics, government and more — a healthy mix of business and technical people from nearly sixty countries.

Background

GS1 standards will help meet the rail industry's current and future business needs. While detailed risk and safety management is becoming increasingly important around the world, it is even becoming mandatory in upcoming regulations in many countries.

Rail equipment failures are often the cause of serious safety incidents as well as delays. In many cases, these failures can be prevented through more effective maintenance programmes. However, maintenance on components that do not require it is costly, and diverts resources from areas requiring attention.

GS1 Standards can help make these maintenance programmes more effective. The Rail industry and GS1 have recently delivered the standards to uniquely identify components in a way that is universally recognised. In the upcoming effort GS1 and the industry and rail stakeholders aim to deliver the standards to share manufacturing, maintenance and usage history information, enabling rail equipment operators to more effectively detect components requiring replacement or refurbishment, saving time and preventing failures.

Why is this work needed?

Having GS1 standards for the manufacturing and MRO processes in the Rail industry will enable increased safety and more efficient operations through more effective preventive maintenance and incident investigation.

Standards impacted

The result will be a new MRO in Rail application standard, based on the GS1 General Specifications. It will include documents that define the appropriate times and data to be exchanged among stakeholders, as well as the appropriate formats and transfer mechanisms for each step in the process.

Who should join this working group?

Relevant, clear standards begin with robust industry involvement. We are dedicated to maximising the impact of your participation while minimising your time commitment. To succeed in this work, we need:

- Decision-makers in business, MRO and IT who can speak on behalf of their organisation and gain access to subject matter experts across their organisation.

- Participants should be ready to commit to a high-energy project.

How will the working group operate?

This working group will follow GS1's proven standards development process:

- **Define business requirements**—collect input from the industry and solution provider communities about what the standards should include.

- **Develop standards**—experts draft standards and present them to industry and solution providers for confirmation and approval.

- **Ratification**—proposed standards are reviewed by the industry group, approved by the standards development community, ratified by GS1 governance bodies and published.

How to get involved

Organisations wishing to participate in this GS1 Standards Development (GSMP) Working Group **must sign the GS1 IP Policy and the Opt-in agreement for this group.** These policies help GS1 continue to offer neutral, open supply chain standards that can be practiced on a royalty-free basis.

Next steps

1 **Working group kick-off**
February 2017

2 **Trials of the standard**
From July 2017

3 **Final Standard publication**
December 2017

Get more information and join the group

Visit http://www.gs1.org/standards-development-work-groups#MRO

Ask a question

Email: gsmp@gs1.org

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