New GS1 application standard to improve safety and efficiency in the rail industry

For immediate release (25 January 2017) – The new GS1 standard, Identification of Components and Parts in the Rail Industry – Application Standard, is now available for use by all companies involved in manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) processes in the rail industry that aim to improve their performance, efficiency and the safe transport of passengers and cargo.

More than 20 leading railway operators, manufacturers and solution providers brought real-life experience in developing the application standard, collaborating with GS1 standards experts from the GS1 community.

According to Swiss Federal Railways (SBB), Switzerland’s largest railway system, the worldwide rail industry is facing major challenges to improve the quality of its manufacturing and MRO processes for both rolling stock and infrastructure. Critical to these processes is the ability to track relevant assets and components and ensure interoperability between key players and systems.

The application standard provides detailed instruction on how to use GS1 global standards for the unique identification, marking and management of parts and components used in manufacturing and MRO processes. It defines the rules, roles and responsibilities associated with the allocation of GS1 identification keys and the technologies that capture identification information, using barcodes, EPC (Electronic Product Code)-enabled RFID tags and plain text.

Miguel Lopera, GS1’s President and Chief Executive Officer, says, “This standard represents a major step in the rail industry’s journey to not only automate its MRO business processes, but significantly improve its safety and efficiency.”

SBB notes that the rail industry has a unique opportunity to increase its competitiveness in a global market filled with multiple options for transport and travel. By leveraging the new GS1 application standard, together industry players can achieve a higher level of safe, reliable and uninterrupted services for their companies, customers and passengers.

“The implementation of the new GS1 application standard provides the railway industry with a ‘common language’ that significantly simplifies communication between all stakeholders and increases transparency along the supply chain,” advises Dr. Peter
Radina, member of the Management Board at Knorr-Bremse Rail Vehicle Systems, a leading global manufacturer of braking systems for rail and commercial vehicles.

“In the long run the application standard will be a key enabler for even closer collaboration between manufacturers, system integrators and operators, as well as for future digitisation processes that will ultimately lead to a fully integrated rail industry,” continues Dr. Radina. “We are looking forward to shaping this standard together with our industry partners, not only on the technical level, but also as far as intellectual property and commercial aspects are concerned.”

The Identification of Components and Parts in the Rail Industry – Application Standard is now available for download. For more information, visit the GS1 in Rail pages on www.gs1.org/rail or contact Jaco Voorspuij, Senior Manager, Industry Engagement, GS1 at jaco.voorspuij@gs1.org.

About GS1
GS1 is a neutral, not-for-profit, global organisation that develops and maintains the most widely used supply chain standards system in the world. GS1 standards improve the efficiency, safety, and visibility of supply chains across multiple sectors. With local Member Organisations in over 110 countries, GS1 engages with communities of trading partners, industry organisations, governments, and technology providers to understand and respond to their business needs through the adoption and implementation of global standards. GS1 is driven by over a million user companies, which execute more than six billion transactions daily in 150 countries using GS1 standards. www.gs1.org.

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