What business challenges are being solved?

Transportation demand is forecasted to triple by 2050. Today, there are few, if any, stakeholders that can obtain a complete overview of the actual end-to-end supply chain related to goods shipments. Recent crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have clearly put the spotlight on the essential role of transport & logistic to support the way we live and making sure we have the products we need available where we need them and when we need them. Furthermore, knowing what happens to goods as they move through the supply chain is a pre-condition to having true Global Traceability.

The goal of this work is to achieve standardisation of information exchanges among the vast number of stakeholders, the use of aligned terminology, consistent identifiers and technology formats that can deliver significant savings in time and money, and increase in safety.

The team will focus specifically on the transportation steps that are linked to a specific sales order between Seller and Buyer (the transportation journey) and will create an Implementation Guide for integrated Track & Trace in Transport & Logistics across all modes of transport and all T&L network locations. The project will establish clear and unambiguous links between the sales contract (Trade View) and the related transport contracts (Transport View).

Background

There is a need for a comprehensive plan to enable the Transport & Logistics (T&L) community to use GS1 standards to track, trace and monitor products (or assets) and to share information in a standardised electronic format for logistics services (enhancing visibility, preserving quality) across the logistics journey between seller and buyer. The current challenges that industry stakeholders have are as follows:

- Stakeholders use common terms and definitions in different ways, leading to confusion and lack of interoperability.
- Sellers and Buyers of goods have started to realise they need (real-time and) reliable answers to basic questions like “Where are my goods?” and “Are my goods still in good condition?”.
- Logistic Service Providers are also struggling to get answers to their most basic questions like “Where is my consignment?” and “Where are my transport units?”.
- Cross border authorities often do not have adequate route information to determine “Is it safe to allow the goods/consignment to cross the border?”.
- New identification numbers are often issued by different stakeholders across a single transportation journey. This practice often “breaks the chain” of information.

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 60 countries.
Impact
Implementation of a track & trace solution based on the Implementation Guideline should not require high costs for any of the stakeholders, but costs to implement will vary based on the current level of implementation of GS1 Standards.

Why is this work needed?
Standardises information exchanges among the vast number of stakeholders using aligned terminology, maintains consistency of identifiers and technology formats.

Working group objectives
The working group will focus on transportation linked to a specific sales order between Seller and Buyer and is not intended to extend upstream from the point of purchase order between Buyer and Seller.
The work will build on existing standards (no delivery of new formal standards). It is possible that updates to some standards may be a result of this work, e.g., some additions to the Core Business Vocabulary may be needed to support all business requirements using globally standardised vocabulary.

Who should join this working group?
Transport service providers, Shippers (e.g., manufacturer/distributor/retailer), Solution providers (e.g., printing, scanning, TMS, WMS, ERP, Cross-Dock), and GS1 Member Organisations who can contribute their expertise.

Group members must have a good command of:
- Industry knowledge (i.e., needs, challenges, existing processes & solutions)
- Technical knowledge (i.e., technologies currently used to capture
- Event information, identification schemes currently used/mandated)
- GS1 standards knowledge (GS1 numbering, EPCIS & CBV)

How will the working group operate?
This working group will follow GS1’s Global Standards Development Process:

- Propose and validate business need: analyse business needs from industry input and collect additional feedback to ensure that industry objectives are met.
- Develop Implementation Guidelines: industry experts will draft standards & guidelines and present to industry for confirmation and approval.
- Develop supporting collateral

- Join the working group by 30 September 2021:
- https://www.gs1.org/standards/development-work-groups#V4C

Help, questions or need more information please contact:
- Thierry Grumiaux - thierry.grumiaux.coe@gs1.org