



## New GS1 standards for automatic identification

The GS1 Global Standards Management Process (GSMP) brings together business users and GS1 member organisations like GS1 UK to work together on developing and improving the GS1 standards for automatic identification, bar coding, electronic business messaging, and global data synchronisation.

All the standards for automatic identification and data capture – basically how to number and bar code items – are set out in the GS1 General Specifications. The GSMP group responsible for these, the BarCodes and Identification Business Requirements Group, is working on a redesign that will make these more adaptable for new applications or technologies. As the redesign, version 8.0, will now be published in January 2008, and no changes are being made to the present version 7.1, the GS1 Board has agreed that the following change requests are actionable.

### **1. New GTIN allocation rules for when otherwise identical products are sold fresh and frozen:**

If a company sells a product in both fresh and frozen states, then the product must be regarded as two different trade items and be allocated different global trade item numbers (GTINs).

### **2. Logistics label sizes:**

The GS1 General Specifications now make clear that both A5 or A6 sized labels are good and recommended.

### **3. Different GTINs required for variable measure items with different expected ranges of sizes:**

When a company produces the same product in variable measure outer cases, and there are two sizes of outer case, two different 14-digit GTINs beginning with '9' should be allocated to identify these different items. The actual variable measure of each case will also need to be provided using the application identifier standards.

### **4. New Filter Value for EPC-compliant tags:**

A new filter value for EPC-compliant tags: 100 = Inner Trade Item Grouping not to be sold at POS.

### **5. Variable measure trade item GTIN formed from a GTIN-8:**

It is now not possible for a variable measure trade item to be identified with a 14-digit number derived from an eight-digit global trade item number.

### **6. New ISBN-13 structure:**

As from 1 January 2007 all ISBN numbers are 13-digit numbers that are a subset of the GS1 GTIN numbers, and the explanation of how they work has been updated.

### **7. New application for US coupons using GS1 DataBar Expanded:**

Money-off coupons for use in the USA will be able to use GS1 DataBar Expanded bar codes to improve their functionality from 2010.

For those wanting to know more about the GS1 GSMP, please see the website [www.gs1.org/services/gsmg/](http://www.gs1.org/services/gsmg/) where you can find out more about becoming involved.



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For further information about any of these changes to the standards, please contact the GS1 UK Service Team, telephone 0808 178 8799, or email [info@gs1uk.org](mailto:info@gs1uk.org).