



1.6 Allocation

GS1 Member Organisations licence GS1 Company Prefixes and in some cases also licence individual GS1 identification keys (e.g., GTINs and GLNs) to companies.

A company, when licensing a GS1 Company Prefix, has access to all applications using the GS1 system of identification (e.g., logistic unit, service or asset identification). An individually licenced GS1 identification key provides limited access to the GS1 system.

Regardless of the way the GS1 number has been issued by the GS1 Member Organisation, the requirements on the reuse of GS1 identification keys apply to all organisations at all times.

Additional guidelines in the following sections apply when a company changes legal status as a result of an acquisition, merger, partial purchase, split, or “spin-off.”

GS1 Member Organisations may adapt the following guidelines if the law of the country makes it absolutely necessary.

Companies **SHOULD** notify their GS1 Member Organisation of any legal status change within one year of that change to facilitate a smooth transition.

1.6.1 Acquisitions and mergers

If a company is being acquired by or merged with another company and has stock on hand, the stock's existing Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) **SHOULD** be kept. Products that are produced after the acquisition or merger may keep the GTIN allocated before the acquisition if the acquiring company maintains the licence with the GS1 Member Organisation to use the applicable GS1 Company Prefix or GS1 identification keys.

1.6.1.1 GS1 identification keys transferred to an acquiring company

An acquisition or merger often implies that a company has taken over another company and has assumed responsibility for the acquired company's GS1 Company Prefixes and any individually assigned GS1 identification keys. For example, products that the acquired company identified using its GS1 Company Prefix or individually assigned GS1 identification keys can still be produced using the same keys after the merger, since the acquiring company now has the licence to use the acquired company's GS1 Company Prefix(es) and GS1 identification keys. The acquiring company can also choose to identify the products using their own GS1 Company Prefix.



Note: A company should be careful when centralising the allocation of all numbers under one GS1 Company Prefix, for example resulting in a change of the GTIN of existing products, which are otherwise unchanged. Centralising the allocation of all numbers under a single GS1 Company Prefix should be an exception, as it may result in additional work and data file maintenance for customers.

The importance of ensuring trading partners are informed of any changes in a timely manner cannot be overemphasised.



Important: See *section 4.5* for the reuse rules that apply to the party that acquires the GS1 identification keys, in particular the GTIN non-reuse rules.

Section 4.5 of document:

https://www.gs1.org/docs/gsmpr/healthcare/GS1_Healthcare_GTIN_Allocation_Rules.pdf



1.6.12 GS1 identification keys not transferred to acquiring company

If a company acquires a division of another company, but its GS1 Company Prefixes continue to be used in other divisions not acquired, then the acquiring company must change the Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) and Global Location Numbers (GLNs) for the acquired division within one year.



Note: The rules concerning the use of the seller's GTINs and other GS1 identification keys should be taken into consideration when drawing up the purchase contract.