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GS1 and ISO

Partnering for Standards

GS1 and ISO: Partnering for Standards

GS1 designs and manages a global system of supply chain standards

Some people think that GS1 is a company that sells barcode numbers — but that's simply not an accurate picture. In fact, GS1 is a not-for-profit organisation that for the past 30 years has been dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards for use in the supply chain.

The GS1 System does indeed include data and application standards for bar codes. But it also encompasses electronic business messaging standards, standards for secure and continuous data synchronisation, standards for using the Electronic Product Code with radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, and more.

These GS1 standards provide a framework that allows products, services, and information about them to be exchanged efficiently and securely for the benefit of businesses and the improvement of people's lives, everyday, everywhere.

Originally created by manufacturers and retailers to improve the efficiency of the distribution of food and consumer goods to retail stores, GS1 standards today are used by hundreds of thousands of companies in dozens of sectors including healthcare, transportation and logistics, aerospace, defence, high tech, and still, of course, the retail supply chain.

GS1 provides services and support to users of its standards

Beyond simply designing and maintaining standards, GS1 also provides training, implementation support, and a wide range of community management services. All of our day-to-day efforts are focused on our belief in the importance of robust, international, consensus-based standards.

As GS1 standards penetrate more highly regulated sectors such as healthcare, defense, food safety and chemicals, and are deployed to provide new services such as food traceability or anti-counterfeiting efforts, broader understanding of our collaborative work with ISO, and the associated acceptance of GS1 standards by national regulators, will be even more important.

GS1 and ISO share the same values

GS1 enjoys strong working partnerships and alliances with a variety of trade associations, governmental organisations and standards bodies, including:

- AIM Global: The Association for Automatic Identification and Mobility
- HL7: Health Level 7
- ICCBBA: The International Council for Commonality in Blood Bank Automation
- ISBN: International Standard Book Number
- ISSN: International Standard Serial Number
- ISO: The International Organization for Standardization
- UN/CEFACT: The United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business
- WCO: The World Customs Organization
- WHO: The World Health Organization

GS1's working relationship with ISO, the International Organization for Standardization, is a particularly long and active one. ISO is the world's largest developer of standards. Headquartered in Geneva, it represents 158 national standard bodies: one per member country. A number of GS1 staff members participate actively in ISO standard development committees, or even serve as their Chair or secretariat.

GS1 and ISO share the same values and the same beliefs in the vital importance of neutral, global standards. GS1 understands and respects the significant weight the ISO stamp carries, and the reluctance some companies feel to use standards that do not carry it. This is one reason why so many GS1 Standards are ISO-compliant, as well as why GS1 has adopted many ISO standards. This compliancy covers standards for Identification, GS1 Bar Codes, and Electronic Data Interchange, as well as standards for RFID via the significant contributions GS1 EPCglobal makes to ISO.

Working with GS1 standards means working with ISO-compliant standards, with the added value of services, training and implementation support.

GS1 standards recognised by a published ISO standard:

- GS1 GTIN (Global Trade Item Number)
- GS1 GLN (Global Location Number)
- GS1 SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code)
- GS1 GRAI (Global Returnable Asset Identifier)
- GS1 GIAI (Global Individual Asset Identifier)
- GS1 GSRN (Global Service Relation Number)
- GS1 GDTI (Global Document Type Identifier)
- GS1 Data Attributes and Application Identifiers
- Some GS1 Application Specifications (e.g. Logistic Units)
- GS1 BarCodes (EAN/UPC, GS1-128, ITF-14, DataMatrix)
- GS1 DataBar™
- GS1 eCom EANCOM syntax
- GS1 eCom XML syntax
- GS1 EPCglobal Gen 2 air interface

GS1 standards partially recognised by ISO, or recognition in process:

- Some GS1 Application Specifications
- GS1 Global Data Dictionary
- GS1 GDSN Data Pool certification process
- GS1 EPCglobal EPC numbers
- GS1 EPCglobal Gen 2 conformance and performance
- GS1 EPCglobal software interface standards