



The Global Language of Business

Foodservice

Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative Workgroups

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About GS1

GS1® is a neutral, not-for-profit, global organization 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 Organizations in over 110 countries, GS1 engages with communities of trading partners, industry organizations, 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.

About GS1 US

GS1 US®, a member of GS1 global, is a not-for-profit information standards organization that facilitates industry collaboration to help improve supply chain visibility and efficiency through the use of GS1 Standards, the most widely-used supply chain standards system in the world. Nearly 300,000 businesses in 25 industries rely on GS1 US for trading partner collaboration that optimizes their supply chains, drives cost performance and revenue growth while also enabling regulatory compliance. They achieve these benefits through solutions based on GS1 global unique numbering and identification systems, barcodes, Electronic Product Code-based RFID, data synchronization, and electronic information exchange. GS1 US also manages the United Nations Standard Products and Services Code® (UNSPSC®).

About Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative

The Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative serves as a strategic effort in which industry trade associations and individual companies may choose to join voluntarily to assist with their company's adoption and implementation of GS1 Standards. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting or implying an agreement among foodservice companies to adopt or implement GS1 Standards. Nothing herein should be construed as constituting or implying an agreement regarding any company's prices, output, markets, or dealings with customers and suppliers. Nothing herein is inconsistent with the proposition that each participating company must and will exercise its independent business judgment on all standards adoption.

1 Introduction

Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative members provide technical and functional expertise to address major industry issues through the adoption of GS1 Standards. The Initiative's workgroups bring targeted teams together to develop a variety of implementation tools, educational materials, and industry recommendations in support of the Initiative. All members of the Foodservice Initiative are encouraged to participate in the workgroups, which they may join at any time.

Table 1-1 Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative Workgroups. Meetings are scheduled once a month for an hour and provide a central point of contact for specifics.

Workgroup
Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery Product Information, Images, and Governance Workgroup
Joint Foodservice and Retail Grocery Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup
Foodservice Attribute Review Workgroup
Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery FSM 204 Workgroup
RFID Foodservice Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup
Supply Chain Optimization Cross-Industry Discussion Group
Cross-Industry RFID Discussion Group

2 Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery Product Information, Images, and Governance Workgroup

The Joint Product Information, Images, and Governance Workgroup provides guidance as to how product data and images for items sold in Foodservice and Retail Grocery can be best used and shared between trading partners and transmitted through the Global Data Synchronization Network™ (GDSN®).

2.1 Scope

The Joint Product Information, Images, and Governance Workgroup increases the quality of shared data within the Foodservice and Retail Grocery Communities through aligned, complete, and accurate GDSN attributes and product images across all channels (physical or digital), and global approach (when desired).

2.2 Methodology

At a minimum, the Joint Product Information, Images, and Governance Workgroup:

- Seeks to understand the ever-changing state of product information and image requirements in Foodservice and Retail Grocery industries, including what is defined (industry or specific organization requirements), how it is classified, and where the challenges lie
- Drives the workgroup to further develop an industry approach to defining and sharing this information
- Expands the level of adoption of GDSN and validate GDSN as the means for the exchange of new product attribute requirements

2.3 Deliverables

- Update GDSN implementation guidelines for Foodservice based on changes and information from the industry, including GSMP and GDSN releases.
- Create tools to support the data completeness campaign for Foodservice, which includes increased adoption of the following key attributes: images, marketing, ingredients, and allergens.
- ✓ Update implementation checklists for GDSN to support small to mid-sized suppliers **Note:** While the joint workgroup intends to realize synergies between the two industry segments, the group will also work to evaluate when distinct foodservice or grocery-specific attributes are needed to support industry progress for product information and images.

3 Joint Foodservice and Retail Grocery Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup

The Joint Foodservice and Retail Grocery Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup is tasked with developing and deploying industry specific guidance and best practices for managing supply chain visibility and the key business processes, including inventory management, on-shelf availability, recall readiness and others, that depend on enhanced visibility.

3.1 Scope

The Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup identifies and defines common industry business process needs that could be improved by enhanced supply chain visibility. This group works to address the challenges of ensuring the accurate identification of products, as well as the delivery and tracking of safe foods and other products in the supply chain.

3.2 Methodology

At a minimum, the Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup:

- Identifies key business processes where improved visibility is needed to solve a specific industry business problem or requirement/regulation (e.g., on-shelf availability; inventory tracking; recalls; etc.)
- Understands and analyze possible solutions to improve the visibility needed to solve the business problem or meet regulatory requirements (e.g., Electronic Data Interchange (EDI); Electronic Product Code Information Services (EPCIS); Critical Tracking Events (CTEs); Key Data Elements (KDEs); etc.)
- Aligns a common approach based on prioritization of business problems and appropriate industry solutions

3.3 Deliverables

- Develop necessary requirements to support the objectives of supply chain visibility
- Identify and develop key industry resources, including implementation guide(s) and best practice documents to support the adoption and implementation of GS1 Standards

✓ **Note:** Results and recommendations will be presented to the Initiative's Executive Leadership Committee (ELC) for approval. Materials will be posted on the Initiative's website and the Workgroup will work with the Foodservice Marketing team to promote tools and resources (e.g., documentation and guidelines) to the community.

4 Foodservice Attribute Review Workgroup

The Foodservice Attribute Workgroup is the industry group tasked with optimizing GDSN attributes to be used in the Foodservice industry. Company operating guides, scorecards and their corresponding data pool interfaces should reflect the attributes agreed to within this workgroup.

4.1 Scope

This workgroup is tasked with aligning and standardizing Global Data Synchronization Network® (GDSN) attributes needed to meet the growing demands by classifying GDSN optional attributes as “highly recommended to do business” (as directed by industry) or as “advised for discussion” attributes that would be highly beneficial but do not fall within the “highly recommended” category. As new GDSN releases are published, the workgroup will continue to discuss new attributes and provide appropriate designations to be included in future versions of the GS1 US Foodservice Recommended GDSN Trade Item Attribution.

4.2 Methodology

Workgroup will meet two to three times per year to discuss new attributes from GDSN releases and ongoing obstacles for adoption and standardization of attributes including industry wide remedies.

4.3 Deliverables

The Foodservice Attribution Workgroup deliverables will include:

- Identify and align product data deemed as “highly recommended” to do business, including but not limited to data for supply chain, operations, and marketing needs.
- Identify and align product data that is “advised for discussion” to do business, including but not limited to data for supply chain, operations, and marketing needs.
- Develop and execute a messaging/education strategy to communicate these requirements to the foodservice industry.
- Develop and publish GS1 US Foodservice Recommended GDSN Trade Item Attribution document to catalog all attributes used in the food industry which will contain foodservice industry designations.
- Collaborate on an implementation roadmap to encourage industry adoption and use of data synchronization.
- Review and assign designations for attributes in future GDSN releases.

5 Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery FSMA 204 Workgroup

GS1 Standards are widely adopted in the food supply chain and enable unique identification for critical tracking events and key data elements (CTEs/KDEs), essential for farm-to-fork traceability. Industry leaders, along with GS1 US, are coming together to determine how to leverage your existing investment in GS1 Standards to meet the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) 204 requirements.

The Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery FSMA 204 Workgroup is tasked with developing and deploying industry specific guidance and best practices that will help companies manage supply chain visibility and the key business processes, including inventory management, traceability, recall readiness and others, that depend on enhanced visibility. Both the needs of the retail grocery and foodservice industries will be considered.

5.1 Scope

Section 204 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) requires the FDA to designate foods for which additional recordkeeping requirements are appropriate and necessary to protect public health, and to establish those recordkeeping requirements. The additional recordkeeping requirements that the FDA proposes to establish are outlined in the Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods (Food Traceability), FSMA 204 rule and are intended to make it easier to rapidly and effectively track the movement of a food to prevent or mitigate a foodborne illness outbreak. In response, members of the U.S. food industry are actively preparing to implement additional record keeping for high-risk foods within their business processes to meet these requirements.

5.2 Methodology

Members of the Retail Grocery and Foodservice industry are coming together in the Joint Foodservice and Retail Grocery FSMA 204 Workgroup to develop guidance materials that show how the GS1 standards of identify, capture, and share can be used to help meet the FSMA 204 Final Rule requirements.

5.3 Deliverables

The GS1 US Joint Foodservice & Retail Grocery FSMA 204 Workgroup is committed to working collaboratively to design robust supply chain trading partner solutions for the U.S. Food industry utilizing GS1 Standards and publishing appropriate Guides, Reports, Tool Kits, and Guidelines for companies preparing for FSMA 204, including:

- Aligning on representative business processes scenarios that will be impacted by items in scope for FSMA 204
- Development of a whitepaper to show how GS1 standards can be used for upstream food producers
- Developing and publishing a food traceability implementation guidance
- Identification and revision of existing GS1 US materials relevant and necessary to instruct companies on how to use the GS1 standards for existing supply chain needs
- Develop an industry outreach, education and implementation plan

6 RFID Foodservice Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup

The RFID Foodservice Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup is tasked with defining key use cases and clarifying best practices within the food industry to produce a consistent set of source-tagging requirements and resources.

Such resources would address key supplier needs such as EPC data encoding options, EPC encoding process options, tag placement and marking guidance, and key educational materials for GS1 US to deploy.

6.1 Scope

This GS1 US RFID Foodservice Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup will work to define and develop key manufacturer source tagging resources. The workgroup will define key use cases and requirements, weigh possible solutions, and create industry-specific guidance. Such guidance will be limited to the core resources needed to drive a consistent set of supplier requirements for leveraging GS1 Standards with RAIN RFID. This work will be evaluated for compatibility with efforts in farm tracking, as well as the GS1 US Food Safety Modernization Act Rule 204 Workgroup.

6.2 Methodology

The GS1 US RFID Foodservice Supply Chain Visibility Workgroup will work to clarify a consistent set of source-tagging requirements for leveraging GS1 Standards with RFID technology. The workgroup will produce a guidance document for industry which includes tag data encoding options, tag placement and marking, and essential educational materials.

6.3 Deliverables

The workgroup will provide:

- Foodservice industry guideline(s) that addresses the specific needs identified in the above scope of work
- The workgroup will also identify key educational content for GS1 US to make available to suppliers. Workgroup deliverables will conform to the GS1 system of standards

7 Supply Chain Optimization Cross-Industry Discussion Group

As supply chains continue to adapt and evolve, it has become clear that focused industry discussions are needed to address the future of enhanced supply chain visibility, specifically in support of traceability and inventory management. Various new and emerging technologies are being leveraged across industries to achieve these imperatives and impending regulations are driving greater urgency. To enable greater collaboration around these topics, GS1 US is establishing a cross-industry discussion group with a focus on highlighting and strengthening the linkages between GS1 Standards and supply chain optimization. Our purpose is to ensure current and future investments in unique identification via GS1 Standards and quality data continue to advance companies of all sizes toward full visibility and transparency.

7.1 Scope

This discussion group will bring together stakeholders from various industries to discuss how new and emerging technologies and processes, including Radio Frequency Identification, Internet of Things, blockchain, 2D barcoding etc., can support supply chain imperatives, what needs industries currently have to address to enable widespread adoption, and the critical role of GS1 Standards in making these technologies scalable, including persistent use of GS1 product and location identifiers and Electronic Product Code Information Services (EPCIS)

7.2 Methodology

- The discussion group will meet monthly to share insight into various use cases, pilots, emerging technology and processes and how GS1 Standards are leveraged
- Through their work, the participants will network and exchange ideas with other GS1 Standards users and reach out to industry experts as necessary to respond to questions and issues
- Participants will define use cases for effectively leveraging GS1 Standards to enhance supply chain visibility. These use cases may be referred to other GS1 US workgroups for further development

7.3 Deliverables

- Gain further insight into the various use cases identified for supply chain traceability and inventory management
- Share and leverage learnings from across industries on the value of GS1 Standards
- Identify process gaps that GS1 Standards and industry can address

- Help prepare impacted industries for Sunrise 2027: scanning 2D (including GS1 Digital Link)
- Discuss the role of GS1 Standards for current and proposed regulations which enhance supply chain visibility and traceability
- Align industries on the role of GS1 Standards as foundational in addressing these issues

8 Cross-Industry RFID Discussion Group

With expanded use and interest in Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, stakeholders across various industries are increasingly interested in understanding best practices and ensuring interoperable solutions. RFID pilots leveraging GS1 Standards are underway across different industries, and companies are eager to learn from those who have successfully deployed. GS1 US is establishing a discussion group to continue cross-industry collaboration for Electronic Product Code (EPC)-enabled RFID. The purpose is to ensure that current and future investments in RFID and GS1 Standards continues to advance companies of all sizes toward maximizing the benefits of this technology.

8.1 Scope

This discussion group brings together stakeholders from various industries to examine the importance of leveraging investments in global standards and how GS1 Standards with RFID technology supports supply chain and inventory management imperatives.

8.2 Methodology

- The discussion group will meet quarterly to share insights into various use cases, implementation best practices, and recommendations for use
- Through their work, the participants will network and exchange ideas with other member companies who are leveraging GS1 Standards with RFID technology
- They will be able to reach out to industry experts as necessary to respond to questions and issues

8.3 Deliverables

- Showcase successful implementations, pilots, and programs across varying industries
- Provide insight into relevant business problems and RFID-based solutions
- Discuss how GS1 Standards serve as a foundation for RFID
- Provide EPC-enabled RFID technology education
- Identify needs GS1 Standards and industry may want to address moving forward

9 Workgroup Participation Requirements

- All Workgroups will aim to have a mix of participants to include: manufacturers, suppliers, distributors, operators, brokers, academic institutions, industry associations, and technology/service providers.
- Participants for Workgroups should possess skill sets in one or more of the following areas:
 - Data management
 - Sales/Account management
 - Marketing

- Category management
- Packaging
- Operations
- Information technology
- Item administration
- Product supply
- Quality assurance
- Food safety
- Supply chain
- Appropriate subject matter experts (SME's) when topics to address are identified
- Workgroup members will:
 - Abide by the Workgroup's Operations Guide and Code of Conduct
 - Have Executive Sponsor support their participation in the workgroup
 - Actively contribute on regularly scheduled conference calls
 - Provide industry insights and guidance based on their areas of expertise
 - Share recommendations and provide input
 - Assist with the creation of workgroup plans and support documents
 - Agree to GS1 US Intellectual Property Policy requirements (as applicable)

10 Joining a Workgroup

Once your company joins the Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative, all of the workgroups outlined in this document are available for any company representative to join. The GS1 US Community Room is the virtual workspace for initiative progress, workgroup updates, and communications. The process for joining the GS1 US Community Room is noted below.

- **Primary Contact:** the primary contact designated on the application will receive log-in information from admin@community.gs1us.org and can log into the GS1 US Community Room to select workgroups.
 - NOTE: Some workgroups may require the signing of Intellectual Property opt-in (sent separately after access to the workgroup is requested).
- **All other company representatives:** click here to register for an account. (Instructions on how to register for an account can be accessed here.) Once log-in information is received the company representative can log in to select workgroups that are available to Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative members.

Email admin@community.gs1us.org with any questions about the GS1 US Community Room or if you need assistance resetting your password.

Not sure who to contact? Send your request/inquiry to foodservice@gs1us.org.

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