



GSMP:

General Specifications Change Notification (GSCN)

GSCN #	GSCN Name	Issue Date	Status
WR15-039	GTIN-8 Printable Area	5 Oct 2015	Ratified

Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

15-000039

Background:

Add clarity on the types of packages on which GTIN-8 is allowed.

The GenSpecs section 2.1.2.1.4. GTIN-8 states:

The use of a GTIN-8 is authorised when either the largest side of the printed label is less than 40 centimetres² or the total printable area is less than 80 centimetres². This wording is not very clear.

GS1 General Specification Change:

See next pages

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2.1.2.1.4. GTIN-8

Application Description

The GTIN-8 is available for items whose packaging does not include enough available space to permit the use of an EAN-13 or UPC-A Symbol. GTIN-8s are individually assigned by GS1 Member Organisations on request. Figure 2.1.2.1.3 - 1 shows the data structure of a GTIN-8.

Figure 2.1.2.1.4-1. GTIN-8 Data Structure

GTIN-8 Data Structure							
GS1-8 Prefix			Item Reference				Check Digit
→			←				
N ₁	N ₂	N ₃	N ₄	N ₅	N ₆	N ₇	N ₈

The GS1-8 Prefix is a unique string of three digits issued by GS1 Global Office, one-, two-, or three-digit index number, administered by the GS1 Global Office. It does not identify the origin of the item. See section 1.4.3 for the GS1-8 Prefixes GS1 Prefixes 100 to 139 and 300 to 969 in positions N₁ to N₃ are used in this Element String.

Commented [CJ5]: WR15-006

The Item Reference is assigned by the GS1 Member Organisation. The GS1 Member Organisations provide procedures for obtaining GTIN-8s.

The Check Digit is explained in Section 7.9. Its verification, carried out automatically by the barcode reader, ensures that the number is correctly composed.

GS1 Key

Definition

The 8-digit GS1 Identification Key composed of a GS1-8 Prefix, Item Reference, and Check Digit used to identify trade items.

Rules

Commented [CJ6]: WR15-039 – various changes in rules

In addition to the GTIN Allocation Rules described in Section 4, the following guidelines should be observed. Before deciding to use a GTIN-8 as opposed to a GTIN-13 or GTIN-12, companies, working jointly with their printer, should consider options such as:

- Whether the barcode can be reduced in size (e.g., printed at a lower X-dimension, taking into account the minimum barcode print quality requirements (see Section 5.5)).
- Whether the label or artwork can reasonably be changed to enable the inclusion printer's recommended size of an EAN-13 or a UPC-A barcode or a symbol from the GS1 DataBar Retail POS Family (*) to be included (e.g.,

For example, redesigning the label and increasing the label size may be an option, especially when the existing label is small in comparison with the pack area, or using an additional label). The label includes the total printed design surface whether or not it is separately affixed.

- Whether a truncated barcode can be used.

Note: A truncated barcode (normal length, but reduced in height) may only be used if there is absolutely no possibility of printing a full size barcode. Truncation removes the omnidirectional scanning capability. A barcode with excessive truncation will not be of any practical use. Users considering this option should consult their customers to see if an acceptable compromise can be reached.

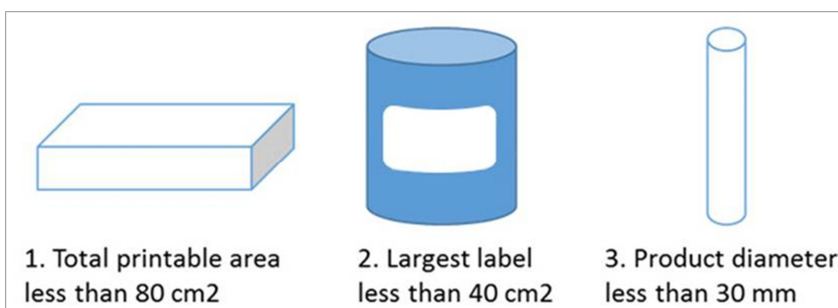
Pack size constraints allow several possible options:

- ~~The use of a GTIN-8 is authorised when the EAN-13 or UPC-A barcode or a symbol from the GS1 DataBar Retail POS Family* in the size required as a result of print quality studies exceeds either 25 percent of the printed label area or 12.5 percent of the total printable area.~~

The use of a GTIN-8 is authorised when:

- The total printable area of the product packaging is less than 80 cm², or
- The area of the largest label for the item is less than 40 cm², or
- either the largest side of the printed label is less than 40 centimetres² or the total printable area is less than 80 centimetres².
- ~~The product is use of a GTIN-8 is authorised on cylindrical products~~ with a diameter less than 30 mm-centimetres.

Figure 2.1.2.1.4-2. GTIN-8 pack size constraints



Attributes

Required

Not Applicable

Optional

For all the Application Identifiers (AI) that can be used with a GTIN, see Section 3.

Rules

Not Applicable

Data Carrier Specification

Carrier Choices

The data carriers for a GTIN-8 are the EAN-8 barcode or a symbol from the GS1 DataBar Retail POS Family (*).

The system recognises this Element String by the symbology identifier **JE4** or **Je0** (*) and by N₁ not being 0 or 2. The data transmitted from the barcode reader means that one Fixed Measure Trade Item with a GTIN-8 has been captured.



(*) In 2014 GS1 DataBar became an open symbology and all scanning environments must be able to read these symbols.

Symbol X-dimensions, Minimum Symbol Height, and Minimum Symbol Quality

See Section [5.5.2.7.1](#), GS1 System Symbol Specification Table 1.

Symbol Placement

All the Symbol Placement Guidelines defined in Section 6.

Unique Application Processing Requirements

For a description of processing requirements, see Section 7.

2.1.2.1.5. Hardcover Books and Paperbacks: ISBN, GTIN-13, and GTIN-12 Scanned in General Retail POS

Application Description

When identifying books and paperbacks a company may identify them in the same manner as any other retail trade items (see Section [2.1.2.1](#)). However, the recommended option is to use the International Standard Book Number (ISBN numbering system). The GS1 Prefixes 978 and 979 have been allocated to ISBN (<http://www.isbn-international.org/>), which allocates numbers from these 'Bookland' prefixes.



Note: ISBNs shall not be allocated to non-book products even if the products are related to a book (e.g., teddy bears, coffee mugs, T-shirts, etc. related to a book launch). Such non-book products shall be identified and barcoded in the same manner as any other retail trade item (see Section [2.1.2.1](#)). A trade item grouping of identical book items would normally be identified according to Section [2.1.2.6.2](#). However, an ISBN may also be used to create a 14-digit GTIN with an Indicator to identify a trade item grouping of identical book items (refer to Section [2.1.2.6.2](#)) provided that the publisher that issues the 14-digit GTIN is a member of a GS1 organisation or is authorised to act through an agreement between its local GS1 Member Organisation and the local organisation representing publishers.

GS1 Key

Definition

The Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) is the GS1 Identification Key used to identify trade items. The key comprises a GS1 Company Prefix, an Item Reference and a Check Digit.

Rules

All the GTIN Allocation Rules described in Section 4.

Attributes

Required

Not Applicable

Optional

Some publishers may wish to communicate additional information in a barcode in order to meet their internal requirements. For example, publishers may wish to include an edition variant (e.g., unchanged reprint, price increase), which is not distinguished by the ISBN, GTIN-13, or GTIN-12. The GS1 System provides an additional two- or five-digit symbol, called an Add-On Symbol that can be included on the item just to the right of the main barcode.