



GSMP:

## General Specifications Change Notification (GSCN)

The Global Language of Business

WR #	GSCN Name	Effective Date
<b>18-120</b>	GTIN non-reuse effectuation	<b>Jul-2018</b>

### Associated Work Request (WR) Number:

18-000120  
17-00073

### Background:

- This is a follow-up on WR17-073 GTIN reuse cessation that was ratified and published in GS1 General Specifications version 17.1.
- In the WR17-073 led to the inclusion of the following statement: The standard for GTIN Reuse will be changed in **December 2018**: a GTIN allocated to a trade item SHALL NOT be reallocated to another trade item. The only exceptions are:
  - If a GTIN has been assigned to an item, which was then never actually produced, the GTIN may be deleted from any catalogue immediately without first being marked as discontinued. In this exceptional case, the GTIN may be reused 12 months after deletion from the seller's catalogue.
  - Trade items that have been withdrawn from the market and are reintroduced may use the original GTIN if they are reintroduced without any modifications or changes that require a new GTIN as specified by the GTIN Management Standard.
- With this change coming into effect, it now needs to be fully incorporated in the GS1 General Specifications v19 (to be published in January 2019).

### GS1 General Specification Change:

The recommended changes are highlighted below, relative to GS1 General Specifications version 18.

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# 1

## 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, generally speaking, provides limited access to the GS1 system.

Regardless of the way the GS1 number has been issued by the GS1 Member Organisation, the ~~normal~~ 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~~ 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. ~~See section 4 for any special GTIN reuse rules that may apply.~~

Commented [CJ1]: WR17-073 addition – removed in WR18-120


#### 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~~ GTINs 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. ~~if it so desires, t~~he 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. ~~See section 4 for any special GTIN reuse rules that may apply.~~


Commented [CJ2]: WR17-073 addition – removed in WR18-120


 **Important:** See section 4 for the reuse rules that apply to the party that acquires the GS1 identification keys, in particular the GTIN non-reuse rules in section 4.3.5.

Commented [CJ3]: Added in WR18-120

### 1.6.1.2 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. ~~GS1 identification keys that are individually assigned by a GS1 Member Organisation, SHALL not be reused by either the acquired or acquiring company but can be transferred to the acquiring company.~~

 **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. [See section 4 for any special GTIN reuse rules that may apply.](#)

 **Important:** ~~See section 4 for the 4 for any special GTIN reuse rules that may apply to the party that retains the GS1 identification keys, in particular the GTIN non-reuse rules in section 4.3.5.~~

At the earliest opportunity, the acquiring company SHOULD phase-in new numbers from its own range of numbers for items whose brand name it has acquired. The acquiring company will be able to do this, for example, when packaging is redesigned or reprinted.

If a company sells an asset to another company, then the asset identifier SHOULD ideally be replaced by another Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI) or Global Returnable Asset Identifier (GRAI) within one year or be removed from the ~~physical asset item.~~

~~During a sale of division or asset and for four years following the selling company must not reallocate the original numbers to other items.~~

 **Important:** ~~See section 4 for any special GTIN reuse rules that may apply.~~


### 1.6.2 Split or spin-off

When a company splits into two or more separate companies it is necessary for each GS1 Company Prefix of the original company to be transferred to only one of the new companies. Individually assigned keys also need to be transferred to only one of the new companies. If a company is left without a GS1 Company Prefix or individually assigned keys and has a requirement to identify products, locations, or assets etc., it will need to apply to a GS1 Member Organisation to obtain a new GS1 Company Prefix or individual [GS1 identification keys](#) as appropriate.

The decision about which of the new companies should take the original GS1 Company Prefixes should be made in such a way as to minimise the impact on existing GS1 identification keys, in particular existing Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs). The decision should be part of the legal arrangements of the new companies.

It is not necessary for existing stocks of [trade](#) items to be renumbered. However, when any of the split or spin-off companies has trade items that are numbered with a GS1 Company Prefix that it no longer holds, the company SHOULD renumber those items using its own GS1 Company Prefix when new labelling or packaging is produced. Customers should be notified well in advance of the changes.

Split or spin-off companies that retain a GS1 Company Prefix [or individually assigned GTINs](#) must keep a record of the GTINs ~~created~~ that have been allocated to items they no longer own [and must adhere to the standards surrounding the use of the GS1 identification keys.](#) ~~See section 4 for any special GTIN reuse rules that may apply. They must not reuse these GTINs for a period of at least four years after the company that split away last supplied goods identified by those GTINs. Therefore, the company that did not retain the GS1 Company Prefix has to keep the company that now maintains it informed of the dates on which goods were last supplied using that GS1 Company Prefix or to guarantee a date by which the number change will be made.~~

 **Important:** See section **Error! Reference source not found.** for ~~the~~ any special [GTIN](#) reuse rules that [may apply to the party that retains the GS1 identification keys, in particular the GTIN non-reuse rules in section 4.3.5.](#)

**Commented [CJ4]:** WR17-073 addition - removed in WR18-120

**Commented [CJ5]:** WR17-073 moved from note below in same section - removed in WR18-120

**Commented [CJ6]:** Added in WR18-120

**Commented [CJ7]:** WR17-073 addition - removed in WR18-120.

**Commented [CJ8]:** WR18-120 - reworded this note.

## 2

### 2.1

#### 2.1.8

##### 2.1.8.2 Trade item groupings of identical trade items

###### Application description

A trade item grouping that is a predefined grouping of identical trade items. The manufacturer or supplier has the option of either assigning a unique GTIN-13 or GTIN-12 to each trade item grouping or assigning a unique GTIN-14. These 14-digit GTINs incorporate the GTIN (less its check digit) of the trade item contained in each grouping. The check digit for each GTIN-14 is then recalculated.

The indicators have no meaning. The digits do not have to be used in sequential order, and some may not be used at all. The GTIN-14 structure for trade item groupings creates extra numbering capacity. ~~Indicators can be reused.~~

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**Commented [CJ9]:** WR18-120: Additional change, not included in WR17-073

## 4

### 4.3

#### 4.3.5 ~~Lead time in reusing a GTIN~~ **GTIN non-reuse**

A GTIN allocated to a trade item that has become obsolete must not be reused for another trade item until at least 48 months have elapsed after:

- ~~the expiration date of the last original trade items produced with that number~~  
~~—or—~~
- ~~the last original trade items produced with that number have been supplied to the customer.~~

The following sector-specific rules apply:

- ~~Apparel: In the case of clothing the minimum retention period is reduced to 30 months.~~
- ~~Healthcare: Companies must ensure that GTINs allocated to regulated healthcare trade items SHALL never be reused.~~

~~Exception: regulated healthcare trade items that have been withdrawn from the market and are reintroduced may use the original GTIN if they are reintroduced without any modifications or changes which require a new GTIN as specified by the GTIN Management Standard.~~

- ~~Technical industries: GTINs that are marked directly on components and parts, such as used in rail rolling stock and infrastructure, SHALL never be reused (also see 2.1.11).~~

~~For other trade items, brand owners should consider a longer period depending upon the type of goods and/or any regulatory framework. For example, steel beams may be stored for many years before entering the supply chain, and processes should be put in place to ensure that the GTIN is not reallocated for a significant period of time.~~

~~In addition, when contemplating the reuse of a GTIN, consideration should be given to the use of data associated with the original GTIN by trading partners for statistical analysis or service records, which may continue long after the original trade item was last supplied.~~

~~If a GTIN has been assigned to an item, which was then never actually produced, the GTIN may be deleted from any catalogue immediately without first being marked as discontinued. In this exceptional case the GTIN may be reused 12 months after deletion from the seller's catalogue.~~

**!** ~~Important:~~ The standard for GTIN Reuse will be changed in December 2018:

~~An allocated GTIN allocated to a trade item SHALL NOT be reallocated to another trade item. The only exceptions are:~~

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- ~~If a GTIN has been assigned to an item, which was then never actually produced, the GTIN may be deleted from any catalogue immediately without first being marked as discontinued. In this exceptional case, the GTIN may be reused 12 months after deletion from the seller's catalogue.~~

- **✓** ~~Note:~~ Trade items that have been withdrawn from the market and are reintroduced may use the original GTIN if they are reintroduced without any modifications or changes that require a new GTIN as specified by the GTIN Management Standard.

**Commented [CJ10]:** WR17-073 changed this into *Reallocating a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)*. WR18-120: changed this once more to make clearer that reuse is not allowed.

**Commented [CJ11]:** WR18-120 added this ("The only exceptions are") back in, had been removed in WR17-073



 **Note:** The GTIN non-reuse rule went into effect on 31 December 2018. Because of this, a [GTIN of a trade item that was discontinued and removed from the market prior to 31 December 2018 MAY be reassigned one last time to a new trade item, in accordance with the rules that were in place when the trade item was discontinued \(i.e. general 48-month waiting period for all GTINs, 30 months for apparel trade items, non-reuse for regulated healthcare trade items, non-reuse for GTINs directly marked on components and parts\).](#)