| WR # | GSCN Name | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|
| WR 26-163 | Reallocation of SSCC | Oct 2026 |

**Associated Work Request (WR) Number:**

WR 25-189 Original WR

**Background:**

This work request is to evaluate the reuse requirements for SSCCs and the time period before such reuse should occur. As this work was discussed it was advised that adding language to explain and encourage non reuse until required would be a helpful addition to the standard.

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See 5.12.3.1, Symbol specification table 1 addendum 2 for 2D barcodes

## 2.2 Logistic units

A logistic unit is an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be managed through the supply chain.

Tracking and tracing logistic units in the supply chain is a major application of the GS1 system. Scanning the standard identification number, marked on each logistic unit, allows the physical movement of units to be individually tracked and traced by providing a link between the physical movement of items and the associated information flow. It also opens up the opportunity to implement a wide range of applications, such as cross docking, shipment routing and automated receiving.

Logistic units are identified with a GS1 identification number called the SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code). The SSCC is the only GS1 key that SHALL be used as the identifier of a logistic unit. The SSCC ensures that logistic units are identified with a number that is unique worldwide.

If, in addition to being a logistic unit, the item is regarded as a trade item by the brand owner, it MAY additionally be identified with a GTIN. The combination of a GTIN and a serial number SHALL NOT replace the SSCC as the identifier of a logistic unit.

If, in addition to being a logistic unit, the item is part of a consignment and or a shipment, it MAY also be associated with the GINC and / or the GSIN.

Attribute information, such as a Global Identification Number for Consignment, AI (401), may be optionally encoded using internationally agreed data structures and a barcode symbology that allow unambiguous interpretation.

### 2.2.1 Individual logistic units

#### Application description

A logistic unit is an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be managed through the supply chain. The identification and symbol marking of logistic units enables a large number of user applications. In particular, the SSCC (Serial Shipping Container Code) provides a link between the physical logistic unit and information pertaining to the logistic unit that is communicated between trading partners using Electronic Data Interchange (EDI).

The SSCC element string AI (00) is used for the identification of logistic units (see section 3). Each individual logistic unit is allocated a unique number, ~~which~~ that remains the same for the life of the logistic unit. When assigning an SSCC, the rule is that an individual SSCC number ~~must not~~SHALL NOT be reallocated within one year of the shipment date from the SSCC assignor to a trading partner. However, prevailing regulatory or industry organisation specific requirements may extend this period. All available SSCCs SHOULD be used before reusing an SSCC, thereby maximizing the retention period and ensuring unambiguous, end-to-end traceability for the longest period of time.

In principle, the SSCC provides a unique reference number that can be used as the key to access information regarding the logistic unit in computer files. However, attributes relating to the logistic unit (e.g., ship to information, logistic weights) are also available as standardised element strings.

#### GS1 key

***Required***

- SSCC

The GS1 Application Identifier for the SSCC is AI (00), see section 3.2.

***Rules***

All SSCC rules described in section 4.3.


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**Packaging size constraints**

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
- The product is cylindrical with a diameter less than 30 mm.




**Figure 4-24-2** GTIN-8 packaging size constraints

## 4.3 SSCC rules

### 4.3.1 Allocating Serial Shipping Container Codes

#### 4.3.1.1 General rule

An individual Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) is a unique number, ~~which~~ that remains the same for the life of the logistic unit to which it is assigned. When assigning an SSCC, the rule is that an individual SSCC number ~~must not~~SHALL NOT be reallocated within one year of the shipment date from the SSCC assignor to a trading partner. However, prevailing regulatory or industry organisation specific requirements may extend this period. All available SSCCs SHOULD be used before reusing an SSCC, thereby maximizing the retention period and ensuring unambiguous, end-to-end traceability for the longest period of time.

#### 4.3.1.2 Responsibility

The Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) provides functionality to support the management (tracking, tracing, storage, etc.) of logistic units through the supply chain. To ensure global uniqueness and traceability, the physical builder of the logistic unit or the brand owner of the logistic unit is responsible for the allocation of the SSCC.

### 4.3.2 Aggregated/nested logistic units

Logistic units may be aggregated or nested into other logistic units for part of the journey to the final destination. For example, parcels may be combined onto pallets. In that case the SSCC of the higher logistic unit may be used to track and trace the contained logistic units. GS1 EDI and EPCIS support the electronic communication of such aggregations or nestings by enabling to specify links between the child SSCCs and parent SSCC.

When dealing with aggregated/nested logistic units in AIDC applications, the following rules apply to ensure correct identification of the higher logistic unit:

- Only the barcode of the higher logistic unit SHOULD be readable. The barcodes of the lower level logistic units should be obscured or otherwise prevented from being read (e.g., by instructing those scanning through a standard operating procedure).
- When using EPC/RFID tags, the filter value used for the higher logistic unit SHALL be different from the filter value used for the lower logistic units.


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