



# **GS1 General Specifications**

## **Version 9.0**

*Issue 1, Jan-2009*

## Document Summary

Document Item	Current Value
Document Title	GS1 General Specifications, Version 9.0
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Document Description (one sentence summary)	The GS1 General Specifications are the core standards document describing how barcodes and identification keys should be used to comply with GS1 standards. They are used throughout the GS1 System.

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## Log of Changes in Version 9.0

GSCN	Section	Summary of Change
08-0160	1	[Re-] Introduction in Section 1.4.3 of the summary of GS1 Prefixes and GTIN-8 Prefixes
08-0075 08-0162	2	Clarification on rules related to ISBN (International Standard Book Number) Improved navigation and correction of a number of references to GTIN-8 usage
08-0161 08-0166	3	Improve navigation by listing all Application Identifiers in numeric order. Removal of outdated references EPC-RFID
08-0147	4	Pointer to GLN Allocation Rules on <a href="http://www.gs1.org/glnrules">www.gs1.org/glnrules</a>
08-0012 08-0036 08-0162	5	New Appendix covering concatenation for any 'GS1 Symbologies using GS1 Application Identifiers' Correction of all GS1 DataBar Terminology. [Re-] Introduction and improved navigation around Symbology Specification Tables
07-0415 08-0166	6	Clarity on the use of more than one bar code symbol Removal of outdated references EPC-RFID
08-0075 08-0012 08-0161	7	Clarification on rules related to ISBN (International Standard Book Number) New Logic flow covering concatenation for any 'GS1 Symbologies using GS1 Application Identifiers' Improve navigation by listing all Application Identifiers details in Section 3.
08-0012 08-0036 08-0166	8	New definition for 'GS1 Symbologies using GS1 Application Identifiers' Correction of all GS1 DataBar Terminology Removal of outdated references EPC-RFID

## Who Should Read These Specifications

Technical experts working with the GS1 System should read these specifications. They provide a global reference document covering all technical aspects of the GS1 System. Their primary objective is to define the international standard upon which individual GS1 Member Organizations can develop user documentation.

## Electronic Data Interchange

The use of Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) is an integral part of the GS1 System philosophy. Full details on the EDI standards are contained in EANCOM and GS1 XML. EANCOM is an implementation guideline of the EDIFACT standards (Electronic Data Interchange for Administration, Commerce and Transport) developed under the auspices of the United Nations.

## Navigator

These specifications have been developed as a reference document aimed primarily at GS1 Member Organisations (who also produce local language user manuals) and system engineers developing software based upon GS1 System standards. All aspects of the GS1 System are summarized in Section 1, which is recommended for those wishing to become familiar with the GS1 System logic and terminology.

Each application section mandates the use of system features defined elsewhere in this document, such as Check Digits, Element Strings, data carriers, and bar code symbol placement.

The sections of these GS1 General Specifications are:

- **Section 1. Basics and Principles of the GS1 System:** Provides an introduction to the core components of the GS1 System
- **Section 2 Application Identification:** Provides a definition for each GS1 application using a template format. Each application is uniquely identified and contains a description, the associated GS1 Key, its definition and links to relevant data structures and attributes (Section 3), rules (Section 4), carrier specifications (Section 5), placement (section 6), and unique processing requirements (Section 7).
- **Section 3 GS1 Application Identifier Definitions:** Describes the meaning, structure, and function of the GS1 element strings so they can be correctly processed in users' application programs
- **Section 4 Application Rules:** Provides the rules for use of GS1 Keys in their application environments. Differences in industries are included as well as the data relationship rules for Application Identifier use.
- **Section 5 Data Carriers:** Provides a detailed description of the data carriers that are endorsed by GS1. It includes symbol specification tables for use in the supply chain operational environment as well as the related bar code production and quality assessment required to achieve excellent scan rates.
- **Section 6 Symbol Placement Guidelines:** Provides guidance on symbol placement as well as transport label standards and tag standards
- **Section 7 AIDC Validation Rules:** Provides rules for validating and processing GS1 Element Strings without human intervention. Check digit and calendar date algorithms are also included.
- **Section 8 GS1 Standards Glossary of Terms:** A standard vocabulary used throughout the GS1 System



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