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Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

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REPORT ON ITS SIXTY-SECOND SESSION

Addendum

UNECE Standards on Meat, Annex II. Codification System

This document contains the new text to replace Annex II. Codification System in the UNECE Standards on Meat. The text was drafted by Australia and the United States and was approved by the Working Party at its 62nd session.

1. Purpose of the GS1 System

The GS1 System is widely used internationally to enhance communication between buyers and sellers and third-party conformity assessment entities. It is an identification and communication system standardized for use across international borders. It is managed by GS1 Global Office, together with national GS1 member organizations around the world.

The system is designed to overcome the limitations of using company, industry or country-specific coding systems and to make trading more efficient and responsive to trading partners. The use of the GS1 Standards improves the efficiency and accuracy of international trade and product distribution by unambiguously identifying trade items, services, parties, and locations. GS1 identification numbers can be represented by data carriers (e.g. bar code symbols) to enable electronic reading whenever required in the trading process.

GS1 Standards can be used in Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) and the GS1 Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN). Trading partners use EDI to electronically exchange messages regarding the purchase and shipping status of product lots. Trading partners use GDSN to synchronize trade-item and party information in their back-end information systems. This synchronization supports consistent global product identification and classification, a critical step towards efficient global electronic commerce.

Contact addresses for GS1 are included in Annex 1.

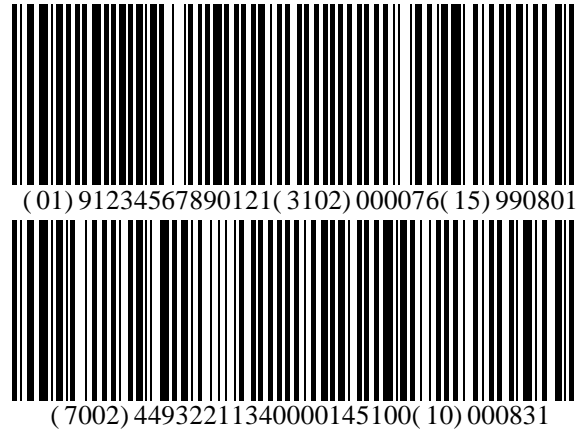
2. Use of the UNECE code in the GS1 System

GS1 uses Application Identifiers as prefixes to identify the meaning and format of the data that follow it. It is an open standard, which can be used and understood by all companies in the international supply chain, regardless of the company that originally issued the codes.

The UNECE purchase specification code defined in section 4.1 has been assigned the GS1 Application Identifier (**7002**) to be used in conjunction with a Global Trade Item Number (GTIN) and represented in the GS1-128 Bar Code Symbology. This allows the UNECE code information to be included in GS1-128 Bar Code Symbols on shipping containers along with other product information (see example 1).

UNECE meat-cut definitions are also being proposed for use by suppliers as an attribute of the GDSN Global Product Classification system. In this way, suppliers can use the UNECE meat-cut code to globally specify the cut of each product GTIN in the GDSN. Once defined by the supplier, all interested buyers will know the exact UNECE cut of each product published in the GDSN (see example 2).

Example 1:



- (01) Global trade item number (GTIN)
- (3102) Net weight, kilograms
- (15) Use-by date
- (7002) UNECE purchase specification code
- (10) Batch number

Example 2:



- (01) Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)
- (3102) Net weight, kilograms
- (13) Slaughter/packing date
- (21) Serial number

Other data, such as the UNECE code, refrigeration, grade and fat depth can be linked to the GTIN via Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) messages.

3. Use of the UNECE Application Identifier in Bar Code Symbols

[Associated pictures are to be included in the final document as in Ovine standard]

- (1) Customers order, using the UNECE Standard and the coding scheme.

[picture]

(2) On receipt of the order, the suppliers translate the UNECE codes into their own trade item codes (i.e. Global Trade Item Number).

[picture]

(3) Suppliers deliver the order to the customers. The goods are marked with the GS1-128 bar code symbol.

[picture]

(4) Customers receive the order and the GS1-128 bar code symbol scanned, thus allowing for the automatic update of commercial, logistics and administrative processes.

[picture]

(5) The physical flow of goods, marked with GS1 standards, may be linked to the information flow using Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) messages.

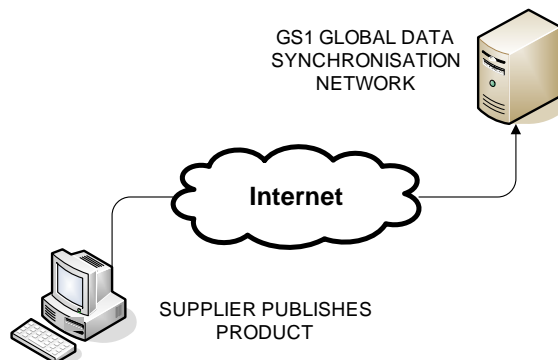
[picture]

Example 2:

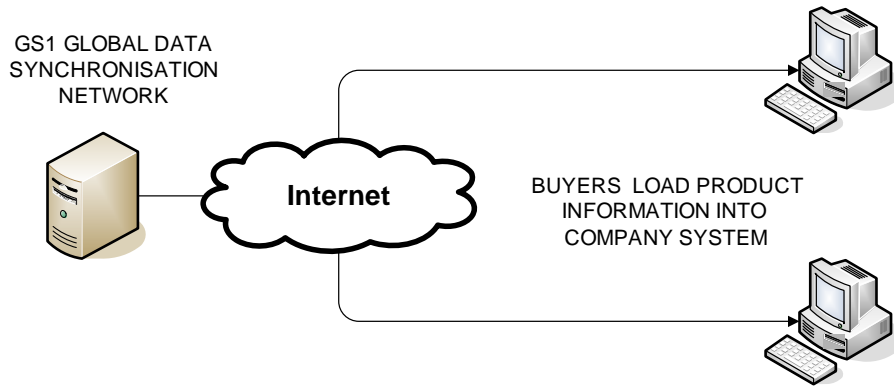
4. Use of UNECE meat-cut definitions in the GDSN

[Associated pictures would need to be created to match style of pictures in Example 1]

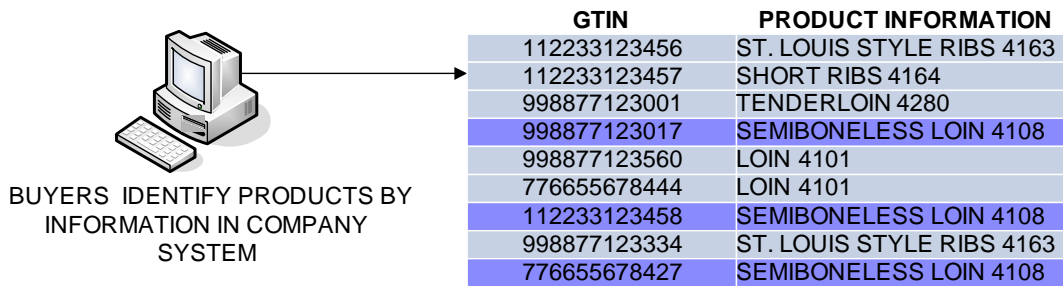
(1) Suppliers publish or update information about a product in the GDSN and use the appropriate UNECE meat-cut definition to define the meat cut of the product using the GDSN Meat Cut attribute.



(2) Interested buyers use the UNECE meat-cut and other product information published in the GDSN to synchronize product information in their own information systems.



(3) Buyers use UNECE meat-cut information in their information systems to identify by GTIN which products they wish to order.



(4) Buyers use product GTIN and related information to order product from supplier using EDI or GDSN-compatible data pool service providers.

