Global Standards Trade Item Labeling and Barcode Requirements

for pharmaceuticals, medical devices, sterile kits and laboratory reagents

HOMOGENOUS TERTIARY PACK
Tertiary packaging refers to upper levels of the packaging hierarchy. Homogenous tertiary packaging may be:
• A pallet that contains (one or usually) several cases
• A case that contains (one or usually) several items in the items’ primary or secondary packaging

GS1 DataMatrix or GS1-128 barcode symbology encoded with and printed as HRI:
(01) GTIN
(10) Batch/lot
(17) Expiration date
(21) Serial number

SECONDARY PACK
Secondary packaging is a level of packaging that may contain one or more primary packages, or a group of primary packages containing a single item

GS1 DataMatrix symbology encoded with and printed as HRI:
(01) GTIN
(10) Batch/lot
(17) Expiration date
(21) Serial number

MIXED OR PARTIAL TERTIARY PACK
Tertiary packaging refers to upper levels of the packaging hierarchy. Mixed or partial tertiary packaging may be:
• Partial – consisting of a homogenous pack of items that is not to be considered a trade item because it is less than full
• Mixed – either more than one unique trade item or entirely the same trade item with different batch numbers or expiration dates

SECONDARY OR TERTIARY

For more guidance on labeling mixed or partial tertiary packs, please see the “Global Standards Logistic Unit Labeling and Barcode Requirements.”

1 mandatory for pharmaceuticals only

HELPFUL TERMS
HRI: Human Readable Interpretation; the printed characters that accompany a barcode or other data carrier
GTIN: Global Trade Item Number, the GS1 key that uniquely identifies a product
Trade Item: Trade items are products and services that may be priced, ordered, or invoiced at any point in the supply chain

PRIMARY Pack
Primary packaging is the first level of packaging that is in direct contact with the item.

Data carrier required only when the item is supplied in cartonless packaging.

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For more guidance on labeling mixed or partial tertiary packs, please see the “Global Standards Logistic Unit Labeling and Barcode Requirements.”

1 mandatory for pharmaceuticals only
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HELPFUL TERMS

HRI: Human Readable Interpretation; the printed characters that accompany a barcode or other data carrier
SSCC: Serial Shipping Container Code; a unique identification key used to identify logistic units
GTIN: Global Trade Item Number; the GS1 key that uniquely identifies a product
Count: The total number of contained trade items identified by the GTIN
Logistic Unit: An item of any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be managed through the supply chain
Homogenous: A logistic unit containing one or more trade items with the same batch and/or expiration date
Heterogeneous: A logistic unit containing multiple different trade items and/or one trade item that varies by batch and/or expiration date

EXAMPLE GS1 LOGISTIC LABEL

[Brand Name] [Product Name]
Manufactured by: Factory XYZ
Address
Address
Manufactured for: Recipient Name
Address
SSCC 0061411234567890
CONTENT 10857674002017
BATCH/LOT NYFUL01
EXPIRY 31 Oct 2025
COUNT 50

*(01) GTIN required when logistic unit is also a trade item
(02) CONTENT required when logistic unit is not also a trade item and logistic unit contains entirely the same trade item
GTIN is omitted for logistic units containing mixed trade items

When multiple expiration dates are contained in the logistic unit, this field should include the earliest expiration date within

Data encoded in the barcode will reflect rules for each data field as defined above

See the Global Standards Technical Implementation Guideline for Global Health Commodities for additional information on how to apply the logistic unit guidance in different scenarios.

*Per the GS1 General Specifications Section 2.2.1, Individual logistics units, a GS1 DataMatrix symbol MAY be included in addition to the GS1-128 symbol.

EXAMPLES OF LOGISTIC UNITS

Batch required for homogenous logistic units only where batch is the same for all trade items contained in the logistic unit
Count of contained trade items required only when a logistic unit contains entirely the same trade item
Global Standards Trade Item Labeling and Barcode Requirements

for long-lasting insecticide-treated nets (LLINs)

HELPFUL TERMS

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SSCC: Serial Shipping Container Code; a unique identification key used to identify logistic units.

TERIARY PACK LOGISTICS UNIT (BALE)

GS1-128 LINEAR BARCODE

GTIN-14
(01) GTIN
(11) Production Date
(10) Batch Number
(37) Count of contained items
(11) Production date

(00) SSCC

(02) GTIN of contained items
(03) Production Date
(01) Batch Number
(02) Count of contained items

(01) SSCC

GS1 DATAMATRIX

GTIN-14
(01) GTIN
(11) Production Date
(10) Batch Number
(21) Serial No.

(00) SSCC

(01) GTIN of contained items
(03) Production Date
(01) Batch Number
(02) Count of contained items

(00) SSCC

PRIMARY PACK (BAG WITH LLIN)

GS1 DataMatrix symbology encoded with and printed as HRI:

(01) GTIN
(10) Batch/lot number
(11) Production date

(00) SSCC

INDIVIDUAL LLIN

GS1 DataMatrix symbology encoded with and printed as HRI:

(01) GTIN
(10) Batch/lot number
(11) Production date
(21) Serial number