

GS1 Healthcare feedback to the Public Consultation of the EU Commission on Guidelines on Good Distribution Practise of Medicinal Products for Human Use

GS1 Healthcare is a voluntary, global Healthcare user group bringing together all related Healthcare stakeholders: pharmaceutical and medical device manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors, group purchasing organizations, hospitals, pharmacies, logistics providers, governmental and regulatory bodies, and associations.

The mission of GS1 Healthcare is to lead the Healthcare sector to the successful development and implementation of **global standards** by bringing together experts in Healthcare to enhance **patient safety**. More details can be found under <http://www.gs1.org/healthcare>.

GS1 Healthcare would like to comment only on the paragraph called Container, packaging and labelling under Chapter 9.

GS1 standards provide for a key to identify individual logistic units, called the Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC). A logistic unit can be any combination of units put together in a case or on a pallet or truck where the specific unit load needs to be managed throughout the supply chain. The SSCC enables this unit to be tracked individually which brings benefits for order and delivery tracking and automated goods-receiving. As the SSCC provides a unique number for the delivery it can be utilized as a look-up number to provide not only detailed information regarding the contents of the load but also as part of an Advanced Shipping Notice (ASN) or Despatch Advice process.

Typically this means that just one scan at a goods-in bay of the SSCC on a logistic unit can be linked to a pre-received electronic ASN/Despatch Advice of the contents of the logistic unit to facilitate speedy goods-in and put away processes. Alternatively, when tracking a unit in transit the SSCC provides all the information required for accurate identification.

An SSCC is different from a traded unit in that it is used when an item or unit load needs to be identified, specifically when moving from one place to another. It is possible to have a single item identified with both an SSCC and a GTIN (Global Trade Item Number), an example would be a pallet of bottled water that needs to be tracked in the supply chain but is also bought and sold. The SSCC can be captured when a specific logistic unit is dispatched, arrives at the destination or at any other intermediary point in the supply chain.

Many healthcare stakeholders already use the SSCC today worldwide in the supply chain – more details can be found on the following website
http://www.gs1.org/sites/default/files/docs/idkeys/GS1_SSCC_Executive_Summary.pdf.

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