Current Identification of Fresh Produce

Consumer Unit

4 Digit PLU

Assigned by IFPC / Aus-PIC

PLU codes are not encoded into barcodes, and are only used for in-store point of sale to identifying the items. PLU codes for a fruit vary to denote variety and size. Granny Smith Large = 4017, medium = 4139

EAN-8 (8 digit GTIN)

For larger fruits (such as avocados), the brand owner (if a member of GS1 Australia) can request 8-digit GTIN numbers from GS1 Australia and allocate these to the item in question. The GTIN may then be encoded into a standard barcode and applied to the individual product.

Assigned by: Brand Owner / Association
(Brand Owner = Supplier or Retailer)

If individual companies apply EAN-8s then the number will identify the brand owner. However some brand owner organisations, such as the Australian Mango Industry Association (members of GS1 Australia) would source EAN-8s from GS1 Australia, and allocate these on behalf of the industry. The GTINs in this case would only identify the fruit and the association (not the brand owner).

EAN-13 (13 digit GTIN)

Where an item is large enough (or if pre-packed in some way) the individual brand owner can allocate GTINs from its own number range (assuming they are a member of GS1 Australia). This GTIN can be encoded into a standard barcode and applied to the product (such as watermelon or cucumber).

In this way the GTIN identifies the product and the brand owner uniquely.

Assigned by: Brand Owner / Association / GS1 Australia (for berry association state based GTINs)

Again the GTINs may be provided to brand owners by the representative member organisation (if the association has subscribed to GS1 Australia for their own number range). In this case only the item and the organisation is identified.

EAN-13 Berry Association State Based GTINs

GS1 Australia allocates 13-digit GTINs on behalf of 6 Berry Associations. These GTINs apply at a State-Level to all berry variants that are packed as **punnets** (blackberry, strawberry etc).

The GTIN will vary by 3 factors:

State
Fruit
Weight

200g of NSW Strawberries is a different GTIN to 200g of QLD Strawberries.

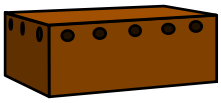
Variable Measure Trade Items

Suppliers wishing to label and apply bar codes to variable measure trade items must apply to GS1 Australia for standard variable measure company item numbers. These numbers identify the items and company they are allocated to, and are for use in conjunction with weighing machines and labelling at the point of packaging.

Traded Units

EAN-14 (14 digit GTIN)

Assigned by: Brand Owner/ GS1 Australia (generic GTIN for loose fruit and vegetables)



To identify the units traded in the supply chain (i.e. box, bin, tray, ship crate etc). The brand owner (if a member of GS1 Australia) can allocate 14-digit GTINs to the unit from their own number range. This has the benefit of identifying the items and the brand-owner.

GS1 Australia – Generic 14 digit GTINs (2 year interim Solution)

The intention is for all loose fruit and veg brand owners to assign their own **trade-unit** GTINs, but as an interim measure GS1 Australia has an extensive list of generic trade-unit GTINs (14 digit) that can be used to identify these items.

The GTINs are 14-digit and begin 09334892xxxxxx

The PLU, description, order qty and logistics unit is denoted.

While boxes do tend to have GTIN numbers encoded as barcodes, there is less use of barcodes on other logistic units (some contain a card placed in the unit, which could also carry a barcode).

Applying for non-retail trade item GTINs for loose fruit and vegetables

The applicant must be a member of GS1 Australia to apply for a National GTIN. To obtain a copy of the application form please contact the GS1 fresh produce coordinator of Industry Engagement on 1300 366 033.

Any pre packaged produce item whether packed into boxes or returnable plastic crates will not meet the criteria. In this case the brand owner (supplier/retailer) must assign the GTIN.

Pallet Identification

GS1 Logistics Label

Many fresh produce Vendors have signed up for GS1 Australia membership to meet retailer requirements for pallet labelling.

This requires the use of the vendors GS1 company prefix, assigned by GS1 Australia in the structure of the Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC).

Other information required in bar code format consists of trade item GTIN contained in the logistics unit, count of trade items in the logistics unit, pack date (optional), batch number, expiry date.

Grocery Industry GS1 Logistics Label Requirements

Bar–code Information

The top bar code will contain information about the content of the pallet and must include as a minimum,

- **AI 02** – The Global Trade item Number (GTIN) of the product **09334892002776** shown in the example
- **AI 37** – The total number of traded items on the pallet (boxes, OM's or crates) **20** shown in the example
- **AI 13** – Pack Date (optional)

The bottom bar code contains a unique number to each pallet;

- **AI 00** – The Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC). **393123450000000013** is the number used in the example

Human readable Content

The "packed on date" must be in human readable form on the label but does not necessarily need to be contained within the bar code (unless the vendor wants to use this).

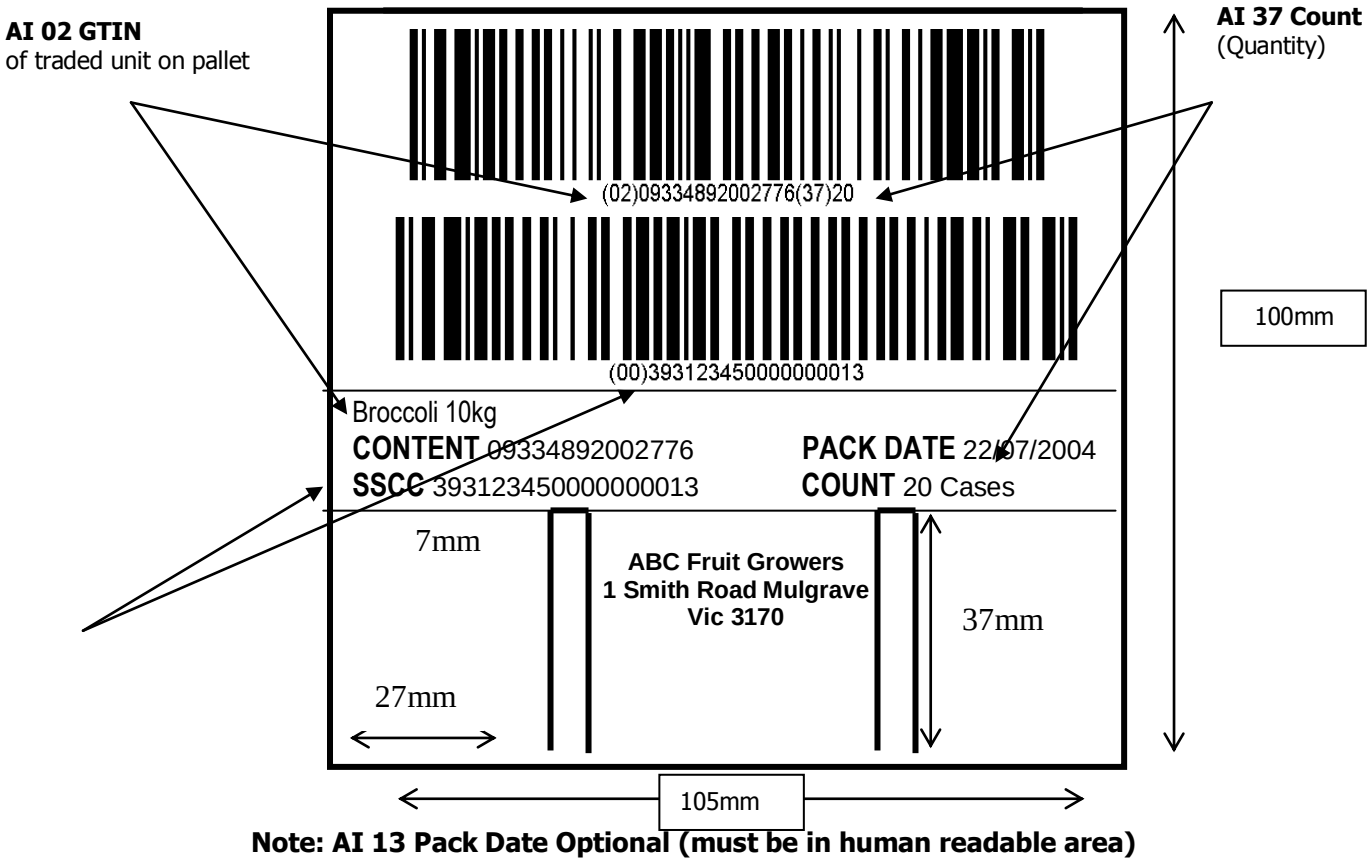
Placement

For non-Chep crate pallets the correct placement of the labels should be on two sides of the pallet on the fork life entry sides. For each side of the pallet the labels should be stuck squarely (not on an angle) onto a box on the pallet app. 600mm from the ground in the centre of the pallet. If the pallet is wrapped in plastic the pallet labels must be placed on the outside of the plastic warp.

For Chep crate pallets – the label is also placed on two sides of the pallet on the fork lift entry sides behind the prongs in the panel on a crate app. 600mm from the ground in the centre of the pallet

THE BACKING PAPER OF THE PALLET LABEL MUST BE LEFT ON

Example of a Returnable Plastic Crate pallet label



Note: AI 13 Pack Date Optional (must be in human readable area)

Fresh Produce and GS1net

What is GS1net?

Item master data is fundamental to all business systems. The sharing of item master data between trading partners (e.g. buyer/seller) is one of the most important supply chain processes.

The integrity and timeliness of master data is critical for the uninterrupted flow of goods throughout the entire supply chain. Sharing data effectively and efficiently is reliant upon access to accurate and standardised data definitions and agreement on the process used to support the continuous and automated exchange of master data between trading partners. Such data sharing is commonly referred to as 'Data Synchronisation'.

GS1net is a Data Synchronisation and Product Registry service. Through the use of GS1net, trading partners are able to continuously and automatically synchronise item master data. Data Synchronisation is an essential foundation and critical first step toward achieving efficient electronic commerce.

Data Syncronisation is an absolute pre requisite before contemplating advanced supply chain management applications such as Collaborative Planning Forecasting Replenishment (CPFR), Scan Based-Trading and other forms of electronic collaboration including collaborative supply chain management or transaction management.

GS1net has been designed by industry for industry as a central, standards-based system to meet the common need of industry.

How does it work in Fresh Produce?

All types of GTIN numbers (with the exception of PLUs) can be entered into GS1net. GS1 Australia's aim is eventually for all suppliers to assign their own GTINs to consumer and traded units in fresh produce, but this does not stop the loading of these items today (even if using a generic or association GTIN).

All other attributes for variable measure items can be managed in GS1net, using guidelines similar to those we have set for meat / deli.

The issue around the variable market pricing fluctuation (daily) and the manual override of the Host file (weekly) pricing done at stores to accommodate this is not encapsulated in the above and requires further discussion.

The Global Data Syncronisation landscape

Over recent years a significant number of GS1 number organisations and third party solution providers from around the world have developed data syncronisation services, known as data pools, similar to GS1Net. For example the USA version is called 1Sync and in Canada ECCnet. Through the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP), interoperability between the data pools around the world by linking the data pools to form the Global Data Syncronisation Network (GDSN). This enables the syncronisation of information between trading partners world wide, irrespective of their geographical location.

Databar in the Fresh Produce Industry

GS1 has introduced the Databar symbols and associated Composite Components to meet the expressed needs of GS1 members.

Databar provides a better way to automatically identify individual produce items (e.g., apples and oranges), other very small items and random measure retail items utilizing full product identification such as meat and poultry.

Traditional GS1 codes identify only the manufacturer and the product identifier; Databar codes offer the ability to include additional data through the use of application identifiers (AI's). Example of information that could be included within the codes are, weight, used by dates, batch or lot numbers and vendor ID.

When using Databar the number of digits required to be stored in point of sale software systems are fourteen. Retailers should be aware of this as they upgrade their systems. This technology is available for use today through a bi-lateral agreement. From January 2014, all retailers will be expected to be capable of processing Databar bar codes at Point of Sale.

Further information can be obtained from GS1 on 1300 366 033.