



Australia



# Office Supplies

## GS1 Action Group - OSGAG

### *Data Synchronisation for Office Supplies*

## New industry requirements to impact all trading partners in the Office Supplies sector

Accurate, complete and up-to-date master data information is becoming increasingly important in order to support the efficiencies of standard business processes across the supply chain.

The Office Supplies sector is joining other industries that are already seeing the benefits of cost containment while advancing productivity and customer service by improving the overall quality of data flowing through the supply chain. Whilst technology has been at the heart of many e-commerce initiatives over the years, our industry is still fraught with errors as a result of poor quality data. A seamless supply chain can only be achieved if the information flows can be trusted to be up to date, accurate and timely, the first time and every time.

OSGAG (Office Supplies GS1 Action Group), represented by a leadership group of companies, has been working together and with GS1 Australia to determine a more efficient and standard way that buyers and sellers can share item master data. The result of this work is a comprehensive set of data attributes and rules, based on GS1 open global standards that all industry players can adopt.



## Why this program is so important

Like every industry, suppliers need to share product information with their trading partners to ensure the supply chain operates effectively and that their products reach consumers or end users. Data recipients (or buyers) require product information from their suppliers to drive areas of their business such as merchandising, warehousing, distribution and point-of-sale systems.

Today, sharing product information with trade partners is largely a manual process through emails, faxes and telephone calls. The information provided is often inconsistent in content, format and detail, requiring significant additional work by data recipients to ensure standardisation of their data in their own systems. This has proved costly, error prone and inefficient.

The objective of adopting GS1net, a globally certified and well accepted data pool is to ensure better overall data integrity throughout the industry so that errors in the merchandising, ranging, procurement, distribution and fulfilment activities in our supply chain can be reduced or even eliminated – thereby reducing cost and improving service for the benefit of the entire sector.

OSGAG who represents the interests of the industry is now calling on ALL suppliers and retailers/resellers to adopt this new model and start realising the benefits of having accurate, up to date and complete master data in your business and in our respective supply chains.

## What are the benefits

Adoption of GS1net as the single source data repository for our industry's master data will enable:

- Improved accuracy of orders
- Reduced catalogue and data management costs across the sector
- Fewer forms to fill out
- Fewer duplicate systems and processes – one format for many trading partners
- Improved inventory control and management
- Improved efficiency and accuracy of reporting, both internally and with trade partners
- A quality foundation for effective e-Commerce initiatives
- Consistency of sell through reports
- Consistency of item descriptions across the sector
- Increased accuracy of printed catalogues

## Why GS1net makes a difference

Already in use by hundreds of companies in other industries including grocery, healthcare and hardware, GS1net enables suppliers and buyers to share information with their trading partners both in Australia and around the world, via a single common mechanism. To make sure everyone is speaking the same "language", information in GS1net is based on consistent global standards.

There are three steps for suppliers to provide data to their trading partners via GS1net:

1. Register with GS1 Australia. Information about membership and the benefits is available at [www.gs1au.org](http://www.gs1au.org)
2. Register for GS1net. GS1 Australia membership is a prerequisite for registration with GS1net. For more information refer to [www.gs1au.org/services/gs1net](http://www.gs1au.org/services/gs1net)
3. Become "GS1net Ready". This involves understanding the GS1net data requirements, gathering and validating your product data, loading this to GS1net and publishing it to your trading partners.

Information about the GS1net Ready process is available in the GS1net User Guide located at:

[www.gs1au.org/services/gs1net/technical/](http://www.gs1au.org/services/gs1net/technical/)

We look forward to working with our trade partners to achieve a better, leaner and more productive supply chain!

## OSGAG

### **Brett Proposch – Officeworks**

Office Supplies GS1 Action Group  
Steering Committee Chair

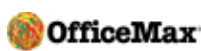
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