



HARDWARE GS1 ACTION GROUP

New industry requirements to impact all suppliers to the Hardware Sector

Within the Hardware sector, an efficient and accurate supply chain is becoming increasingly important. Whilst bar coding of items sold at point of sale has improved dramatically over the past few years, bar coding of non-retail point of sale items (cartons, inners and packs) has lagged far behind other industry sectors.

In light of this, key players in the Australian and New Zealand Hardware Sector have formed a new industry action group in a bid to see supply chain efficiencies and savings delivered throughout the sector.

Known as the Hardware GS1 Action Group, they have outlined an industry approach to product identification, bar coding, electronic messaging, data synchronisation and practical implementation for critical business activities.

These outlines have created the Hardware Sector Numbering and Bar Coding Initiative, and plans for implementing GS1 net (Data Synchronisation) and eMessaging requirements.

Does your business package products in cartons, shippers, outers etc? If so, these new requirements will impact on you.

To kick start the initiative, the companies below announce to the Australian and New Zealand Hardware sector that they are committed to adopting the GS1 standards of Numbering and Bar Coding for all products at all levels of packaging.

This call to action, aims for all industry participants to fully support this commitment and meet the following requirements and timelines below:

1. To assign Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) to all levels of packaging for a product by the end of this calendar year 2008 (Note GTINs are also known as APNs, EANs, TUNs, UPCs)
2. All new products introduced to the market after December 31 2008 must be physically bar coded on all levels of packaging with GS1 compliant bar codes
3. All existing products in the market must be physically bar coded on all levels of packaging by the December 31 2009

To provide more information on the new initiative, we encourage you to join us for an upcoming Roadshow to be presented in Melbourne and Sydney to discuss the new initiative and its impact. Sessions will also be helpful if you would like to find out more about the Hardware GS1 Action Group.

For information on seminar sessions, the agenda and how to register, please see your enclosed invitation or visit www.gs1au.org. Alternatively, contact GS1 Australia on 1300 366 033.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely,

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