



2.2.9 Non-Retail - Variable Measure

Trade items may be considered to be variable measure either because the production process does not guarantee consistency in weight, size or length (carcasses of meat, whole cheeses, etc.) or because the items are created to meet a special order which states a quantity (e.g. textiles ordered by the metre, glass ordered by the square metre).

Only trade items that are sold, ordered, or produced in quantities which can vary continuously are covered by the rules outlined here. Trade items which are sold in discrete and pre-defined units (e.g. as a nominal weight) are treated as Fixed Measure Trade Items.

A GTIN-14 with the Indicator 9 is used to identify a Variable Measure Trade Item. The presence of the variable measure information is mandatory for the complete identification of a particular Variable Measure Trade Item and the variable data is encoded using the appropriate Application Identifier as shown in the examples on the pages that follow.

Unlike GTIN-14s used to identify fixed measure trade items, this GTIN-14 is not derived from the GTIN of the contained trade items.

Indicator	GS1 Company Prefix	Item Reference	Check Digit
9	n ₂ n ₃ n ₄ n ₅ n ₆ n ₇ n ₈ n ₉ n ₁₀	n ₁₁ n ₁₂ n ₁₃	n ₁₄

The Indicator 9 precedes a unique GTIN-13 (or GTIN-12 with a filler zero) and is used to identify a Variable Measure Trade Item.

The GS1 Company Prefix is allocated to you as a member company and may vary in length but is usually either seven or nine digits long. In this example it is nine digits in length.

The Item Reference is a non-significant number that is allocated by the member company. It is purely for identification purposes and the individual digits in the number do not relate to anything or convey any specific item information. The Item Reference must be unique and varies in length depending on the length of the GS1 Company Prefix. In this example it is three digits in length.

The Check Digit is mathematically calculated to ensure that the whole number is correct. Correct calculation is essential for successful scanning of the bar code.

A Check Digit Calculator Program which will automatically calculate the Check Digit can be obtained from the GS1 Australia web site at www.gs1au.org.

For instruction on manually calculating the Check Digit please refer to "Manual Check Digit Calculation" on page 56.

For either method of calculating the Check Digit use the GTIN-14 option.

