



GS1 XML New Release Announcement

6th August 2008

Introduction

In the past, change requests for our GS1 XML standard have been submitted to GSMP and been implemented straight into a new version release on an ad hoc basis where required. What this meant was that potentially a number of different versions for a particular message could be released in a short space of time. To limit the number of versions created, and as such, saving development resources and reducing confusion in the market, GS1 globally has decided upon a 'GS1 XML Maintenance Release Schedule'. This will see new versions released consistently following a set process and timeline. This process and the details provided below relate to GS1 XML transactional messages and not those designed for GDSN.

Process

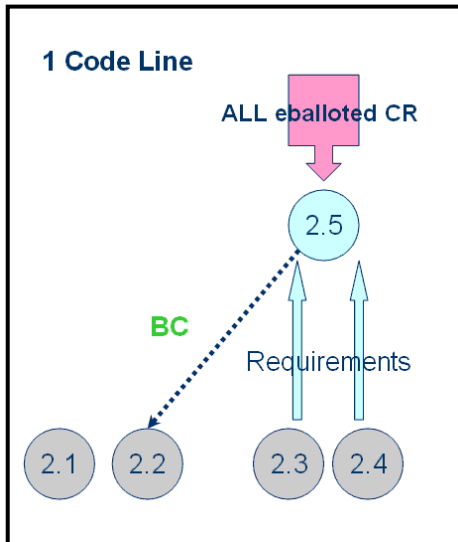
The GS1 XML Maintenance Release involves the establishment of a Work Group of the same name for each scheduled version of the standard. This Work Group contains members of the eCom BRG, Change Request submitters and GS1 Global Office technical developers.

In June, the eCom BRG motioned to create the GS1 Maintenance Work Group, asked for volunteers and discussed the way forward. It was decided that the next release of GS1 XML will be released between August and November of 2008. In all there will be 19 messages released, of which the publication date will be staggered due to the need to prioritize particular messages. These messages will be labelled as version 2.5.

- Phase 1 (finalised by September 1)
 - Purchase Conditions, Goods Requirements, Goods Requirements Response, Inventory Activity or Inventory Status, Consumption Report, Receiving Advice, Despatch Advice, Order Response, Replenishment Request, Replenishment Response, Common Library
- Phase 2 (finalised by October 1)
 - Invoice, Invoice Response, Invoice Extension
- Phase 3 (finalised by November 1)
 - Cross Dock Despatch Advice Extension, Order, Multi Shipment Order, Configure To Order, Debit Credit Advice, Performance History

All messages will be officially ratified on December 23rd however pilot versions will be available from the dates specified above.

In version 2.5, the GS1 XML GUSI Upstream standards will be merged into the general GS1 XML trade message standards. This means there will be one GS1 XML standard for both the upstream and downstream of the supply chain.



In order to enable this to occur, the proposed solution will see the new version 2.5 built off the old 2.2 version (which GUSI currently use). All changes from the 2.3 and 2.4 versions will be re-engineered back into the version 2.5 along with any new change requests that have been approved.

The diagram to the left describes this situation (with 'BC' representing Backward Compatibility).

Conclusion

In conclusion, the recent changes to the maintenance release cycle will provide a more future proof process to ensure all GS1 activities are based on one version of the GS1 XML standards and allow for a more robust synchronisation process for this particular GS1 standard.

However, as GS1 Australia activities will be aligned with the current global direction there will be an impact to current local user community activities.

In summary we raise the following known impacts;

- We advise all known users of existing versions 2.3 and 2.4 **may not be backward compatible** with the new version 2.5 (although every attempt is being made to minimise this issue). A user sending a version 2.4 message to a person set up to receive version 2.5 messages may result in an error at the XML schema level.
- Users of versions 2.3 and 2.4 should upgrade to version 2.5 to ensure consistency with the global standards
- For the local Australian GUSI group, all activity should focus on ensuring alignment to the new version of GS1 XML 2.5 as this will provide an opportunity to trade using the same compatible message version from here-on in.

Technical Details

The information below is designed for those with technical knowledge of GS1 XML. Identified below are areas of impact with regards to the backward compatibility issue. The original design of the solutions for these areas were created in such a way where backward compatibility rules were not followed as per the GSMP User Manual v5 section 4.10.2 (p.56).

As of version 2.5, these solutions will be re-engineered to ensure that they follow the backward compatibility rules. If a user is currently using the below elements within their messaging suite for versions 2.3 or 2.4 they may not be compatible with version 2.5 and should look to upgrade themselves and trading partners to this latest version.

The name of the GS1 XML message is listed, with all relevant elements (and paths to elements where appropriate) under each.

Debit Credit Advice

- debitCreditDetail → subLineDetail → quantity

Invoice

- shipTo

Despatch Advice

- purchaseOrder
- purchaseConditions
- deliveryAndTransportInformation → modeOfTransport »
POOLED_PIGGYPACK

Order Response

- documentStatus
- ResponseDocument (overall message structure)

Multi Shipment Order

- orderHeaderIndicator

Configure to Order

- orderHeaderIndicator
- configureToOrderLineItem → configureToOption → optionValue
- configureToOrderLineItem → configureToOption → subConfigureToOption → optionValue
- configureToOrderLineItem → requestedQuantity

Order

- orderHeaderIndicator