

DOT FOODS GDSN FAQ's

This document is a compilation of questions received, and their associated answers, relative to the Dot Foods, Inc. (Dot Foods) data synchronization initiative. It pertains to new and existing manufacturers implementing data synchronization with Dot Foods.

GENERAL DATA SYNCHRONIZATION QUESTIONS

Q: What is data synchronization?

- A: Data synchronization is the electronic transfer of standardized product and location information between trading partners and the continuous synchronization of that data over time. When this data is exchanged via a central global repository - GS1 Global Registry®, it is referred to as Global Data Synchronization.

Product information includes:

- Item/product attributes controlled by the manufacturer, e.g., Global Trade Item Number (GTIN), Size, Weight, Height, Brand, U.P.C. code

Location information includes:

- Global Location Number (GLN) – Locations/facilities involved in trade such as company headquarters, billing departments, and ship-to addresses

Q: What is the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN)?

- A: The GDSN is an automated, standards-based global environment that enables secure and continuous data synchronization. This allows all trading partners to have consistent item data in their systems at the same time, ensuring that all parties in the supply chain are working with the same data. The GDSN helps to save time and money for all organizations by eliminating steps to correct inaccurate data.
- A: The GDSN enables the GS1 Global Registry and a network of interoperable, certified data pools that enable data synchronization per GS1 System standards.

Q: What are the benefits of synchronizing data through the GDSN?

- A: There are several benefits, including:
 - Allows real-time item maintenance for specific fields
 - Provides accurate, standards-based, synchronized data that reduces inefficiencies in the supply chain
 - Ensures dimensions are correct and stored at the each, case, warehouse pack, and pallet levels

Q: What is a data pool? What is a GDSN-certified data pool?

- A: An entity that provides its customers data synchronization services and a single point of entry to the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) is called a data pool.
- A: Data pools must be certified per GS1 System standards to operate within the GDSN. Data pools interoperate with the GS1 Global Registry and each other.

Q: Where can I find a list of GDSN-certified data pools?

- A: The GS1 website has a list of GDSN-certified data pools with contact information, found here http://www.gs1.org/docs/gdsn/support/gdsn_certified_data_pools.pdf.

Q: What is a GS1 Company Prefix?

- A: A GS1 Company Prefix is a globally unique number assigned to companies by GS1 Member Organizations (GS1 US services companies located in the United States) to create the identification numbers of the GS1 System.

Q: What is a GLN?

- A: GLN is an acronym for “Global Location Number” and refers to the globally unique GS1 System identification number for legal entities, functional entities, and physical locations. A GLN is comprised of 13 digits that together represent a GS1 Company Prefix, Location Reference, and Check Digit. Supply side trading partner locations generally include corporate headquarters, regional offices, warehouses, plants, and distribution centers. Demand side trading partner locations generally include corporate headquarters, divisional offices, stores, and distribution centers.
- **Note:** Dot Foods’ GLN is **0684476000001**

Q: What is a GTIN?

- A: GTIN is an acronym for “Global Trade Item Number” and refers to the globally unique GS1 System identification number for products and services. A GTIN may be 8, 12, 13, or 14 digits in length, represented as GTIN-8, GTIN-12, GTIN-13, and GTIN-14, respectively.

Q: Is data synchronization an Information Technology (IT) function? Does it require IT resources?

- A: Data synchronization is a business process that uses technology for implementation. For a successful implementation, it is recommended to have executive sponsorship and technology resources allocated to this program.

Q: Is data synchronization just another term for EDI?

- A: No. EDI, or Electronic Data Interchange, is used in the transmission of many e-business transactions, whereas data synchronization is the electronic transmission of standardized product and location information.

Q: Does my sales team need to be involved with data synchronization?

- A: Yes, sales people play an important role in the success of this process. For example, for new items to be submitted to Dot Foods, the sales person would communicate with their data synchronization contact at their head office to submit the new item information to Dot Foods.

Q: What is the Global Product Classification (GPC) code?

- A: A GPC code is an 8-digit number that represents a classification of products. It is a 'flat' classification system based on attributes and values. Global Product Classification is a required element of the global data based on attributes, and values and is a required element of the GDSN.
- **Note:** If you need a list of GPC codes, please contact your data pool provider. To request a GPC code to be added to the GDSN standards, work with your data pool provider to submit a change request.

PUBLISHING DATA TO DOT FOODS

Q: My Dot Foods Business Development Manager says I have to do data synchronization.

Where do I start?

- A: The necessary information to get started can be found at <http://dotfoods.com/who-we-serve/your-resources/ecommerce/> and the 1WorldSync landing page at <http://1worldsync.com/web/us/dot-foods>.
 - Complete the *Supplier GDSN Registration Form*, www.aligntrac.com/dotfoods.
 - Review the *Dot Foods GDSN Implementation Guide*, which will walk you through the implementation process.
 - Review the *Dot Foods GDSN Image Requirements*, which identifies the specifications required for publishing quality images to Dot Foods.
 - Reach out to your Dot Foods Master Data Analyst with questions.

Q: Is data synchronization only for existing items that Dot Foods carries, or should I publish new items also?

- A: You should begin by publishing the existing items that Dot Foods carries and then begin publishing new items.

Q: Do I only need to publish the item level Dot Foods is ordering?

- A: No. All levels of the item hierarchy should be published.

Q: What do I do about items that my company no longer carries that are on the report sent to me by Dot Foods?

- A: Identify them in the report and return via email to Dot Foods.

Q: I have successfully published my items and they do not show up as synchronized with Dot Foods. What are my next steps?

- A: You should receive Catalogue Item Confirmations (CIC) "accepting" your data within a few hours of your publications. CICs indicating "synchronization" will be issued once your entire product line is reviewed and moved to "production synchronization" status within Dot Foods' internal systems.

Q: Is Dot Foods checking the Initial Load or New Publication Types for incoming Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) publications?

- A: Suppliers need to use the correct Publication Type, as the Publication Type is used to control the flow of information. "Initial Load" publications are directed to Dot Foods'

audit process for existing items, whereas “New” items are directed to Dot Foods’ new item setup process (once Dot Foods deems that the supplier is in production).

Q: When can I expect to see the Catalog Item Confirmation (CIC Authorization)?

- A: You should receive the initial CIC within hours of Dot Foods receiving your Catalogue Item Notification (CIN). You may receive additional CICs as Dot Foods processes the data.

Q: What is an unmarked inner?

- Unmarked inners are inner pack quantities in which no GTIN has been assigned. Publishing unmarked inner values when applicable provides a more accurate depiction of the trade item’s pack size.

Q: How do I become Marketing & Nutritional Complete?

- Dot Foods scores all suppliers on Marketing & Nutritional Completeness. In order to obtain a 100% Marketing & Nutritional Completeness score, all six of the following attributes must be published:
 - Marketing
 - Images
 - Nutritionals
 - Ingredients
 - Preparation
 - Storage
- **Note:** Non-foods manufacturers are required to publish Marketing and Images only.

COMMON MISTAKES

Enhance your data synchronization experience by avoiding these common mistakes.

Length and Width swap

- For a non-consumer trade item, the length is the longest side of the natural base.

TI/HI swap

- TI = units per layer; HI = the number of layers per pallet
- Also known as tie and tier

Publishing item changes outside of GS1 tolerances or not issuing a new GTIN when applicable

- Review the *GDSN Package Measurement Standards* and the *GTIN Allocation Rules* on the GS1 US website prior to making item changes, www.gs1us.org.

Omitting required attributes to attain a compliant status

- A: In addition to the foodservice attributes, Dot Foods requires the following four attributes in order for a publication to receive a compliant status:
 - Alternate Item Number
 - Minimum Lifespan from Production
 - Storage Temperatures
 - Country of Origin

Nutritional Data

- When publishing nutritional data, be certain to include the Calculation Size.
- Not all nutrients share the same unit of measure (UOM). If you are unsure of the appropriate nutrient UOM to utilize, review the *Dot Foods GDSN Implementation Guide*.

Publishing “N/A” for Marketing & Nutritional attributes

- Only valid information should be entered for Marketing & Nutritional attributes. Publishing “N/A” leads to customer confusion and will not increase your Marketing & Nutritional Completeness score with Dot Foods.