To:	Suppliers Utilizing IDM for Item Management
CC:	Merchant Category Teams Utilizing IDM for Item Management
From:	**Sam's Merchandise Solutions**
Date:	August 24th, 2021

Suppliers,

Thank you for your leadership, participation and feedback our new Item Management process thus far. We've heard you loud and clear – this process needs to be easier!

As you heard from Kameron last month, we are investing in the **Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN).** GDSN is an industry standard for item creation and maintenance that has been improving processes globally for more than a decade. We expect this to drastically simplify the item onboarding process and to ensure that we receive the quality data for all of the items within our assortment.

Effective **immediately**, we expect all suppliers to utilize GDSN for managing eligible items inside our new Item Data Management (IDM) application.

The new GDSN process is still in the development phase - not everything will be perfect at launch, and not all features will be enabled from the beginning. By utilizing the new process and providing continuous feedback, you will help guide our efforts as we expand more features and capabilities in IDM. Thank you in advance for all that you will do to make our new synchronization process a success!

Please see below for additional details and next steps.

Best,
Merchandise Solutions

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DETAILS:

To learn more about our product content requirement and syndication process, attend one of our training sessions below.

Next Steps & Action Required

- Suppliers can immediately start using GDSN to publish data to Sam's Club. All existing items inside IDM will require an Initial Load publication. All new items from this date forward will require a New publication.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN)?
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.

The GDSN enables the Global Standards One (GS1) Global Registry and a network of interoperable, certified data pools that enable data synchronization per GS1 System standards.

What are the benefits of synchronizing data through the GDSN?
Data synchronization provides an automated method to synchronize item information with retailers, according to global industry standards, by utilizing the same format for all trade items and parties to improve accuracy.

Using the GDSN can:

- Reduce errors for creation of items
- Increase market share for early arrival of new items
- Increase the efficiency of businesses
- Build the foundation for electronic collaborative commerce

What is the Sam's Club GLN?
The Sam's Club US GLN is **0605388000002.**

Do I need to set up a subscription to publish to Sam's Club?
Yes. Contact Retail Link (RL) Technical Support at 1.479.273.8888, option 1, or you can email them at vendoraccess@wal-mart.com; to request for a GDSN subscription to be created. The support team will need your RL User ID, Global Location Number (GLN), and your 6-digit Supplier Number(s). A Catalogue Item Subscription (CIS) will be sent from Sam's within 24 hours after setting up a subscription with Retail Link.

Will new items be synchronized?
Yes. To onboard an item, a supplier should first send a New Publication and then use IDM to submit that item to the merchant teams for review.

Will existing items be synchronized?
Yes. All items within IDM that have a GTIN (non-40 type) are eligible for synchronization and should be synchronized. Items that have not been migrated to IDM should not be synchronized at this time.

Are all Sam's Club Suppliers expected to use GDSN for item management?
Yes, provided the supplier has at least one item that is eligible for synchronization.

If a Sam's Club Supplier is already utilizing the GDSN with other Retailers, will it cost extra for them to trade data electronically with Sam's Club?
No. Once a Supplier has made the investment to transmit data with other Retailers, they are free to trade data with any retailer requesting their data at no additional cost. If your Supplier is trading data with any other Retailer, they need to be trading data with Sam's Club.

Do Sam's Club Suppliers have to use the same data pool provider as Sam's Club?
No. Sam's Club has partnered with 1WorldSync for our data pool needs, but suppliers can choose any certified data pool that best fits their needs. Please visit www.gs1.org for a listing of certified data pools.

What data should be provided through GDSN to Sam's Club?
All required attributes inside IDM are available for synchronization through GDSN and therefore should be sent through the network electronically to Sam's Club. Sam's Club attribute requirements can be found in our help page within IDM.

If I have questions and need help during synchronization, who should I contact?
Regardless of your data pool provider, please contact 1WorldSync customer support at technicalsupport@1worldsync.com or +1 866.280.4013 for all questions associated with the GDSN or Sam's Club data synchronization initiative. They are the Sam's Club data pool provider and they will be receiving your data information from all other pool providers before sending this information on to us.

As always, we are available to help and answer questions. Open office hours will be available weekdays from 12-3 CST from August 23rd – September 3rd to respond to any questions you may have as you start this new process. Join us on the zoom link below.

- https://walmart.zoom.us/j/91358013335