



Press Release

European fruit and vegetable sector works on GS1 Standards

Berlin, Friday 8th of February 2013

During the global working session Fresh Produce Standards in Venlo September 2012 an European GS1 Fruit & Vegetables Working Group has been initiated. This group, GS1 in Europe - Fruit & Vegetables GS1 standards deployment in Europe, was set up to ensure a harmonised implementation of the GS1 System in the fruit and vegetables sector. Apart from European GS1 organizations, major industry associations like the International Federation for Produce Standards (IFPS), Freshfel Europe, Frug I Com, important user companies from the retailer and supplier communities are key stakeholders of the working group.

The fruit and vegetables business is not a national, but a global business with suppliers from all parts of the world, which need to make efficient trade and fresh produce. At the Fruit Logistica 2013 the fruit and vegetables industry and GS1 starts to work together on implementing the GS1 system (especially GS1 keys like GTIN and GLN) to improve the efficiency of the supply chain from grower to retailer. Now, there is a need to build a common European framework to ensure alignment in the implementation of GS1 standards and avoid divergences in the deployment of the GS1 system especially upstream:

- Common European platform to gather and share European requirements;
- One European voice in global standardization and coordination;
- Participation of industry (producer, supplier, retailer) and associations (Freshfel Europe, IFPS, Frug I Com, Edeka, Metro, Rewe, etc.);
- Common implementation guidelines across Europe.

As a part of this common European framework there is a need for alignment of electronic messaging, because customers expect from fruit and vegetable suppliers the implementation of electronic processes including:



- Use of GTIN for article identification, as the basis for all optimization is a correctly allocated GTIN
- Right use of Global Location Numbers (GLN) along the supply chain
- Labeling of trade units and pallets according to GS1 Standards (incl. GS1 DataBar, Pallet label)
- Standardized electronic master data information exchange
- EDI-messaging for ordering, despatch advice, invoicing, etc.
- Fruit and vegetables more efficiently ordered, received, labeled and traced – based on the same global standards like other food products in the consumer goods sector.

Providing implementation guidelines according to European requirements and legislation as well as supporting the key stakeholders in implementation will be the main objectives of the group. All solutions and standards should be based on global standards and the implementation guidelines supported by the fruit and vegetable industry provided by GS1 Global Office, fulfilling all European requirements.

Companies and associations which are willing to work together on this objective are welcome.



More information?

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About GS1 in Europe

GS1 in Europe is a collaboration of 46 GS1 member organisations: We lead the creation and implementation of harmonised, user-driven solutions for improving the supply and demand chain of European companies. These solutions will be based on GS1 standards.

About GS1 Germany

GS1 Germany supports companies from all sectors in the adoption and practical implementation of modern communication and process standards, in order to improve the efficiency of their business processes. Within Germany, the company is responsible for the maintenance and continued development of the GS1 article identification system GTIN for globally unique identification, which in turn serves as the basis for bar codes. Moreover, GS1 Germany supports the application of new technologies for fully automatic object identification (EPC/RFID) and offers customer-orientated solutions (ECR - Efficient Consumer Response).

Based in Cologne, the private sector company belongs to the international network "Global Standards One" (GS1) as one of the largest of more than 100 national GS1 organisations worldwide. The German Markenverband and the EHI Retail Institute hold equal shares in GS1 Germany.

About Frug I Com

Frug I Com is a unique collaboration of the Nederlandse Aardappelen, Groenten- en Fruitketen (Dutch Potatoes, Vegetables and Fruit chain, further referred to as AGF chain). The ultimate goal is to establish electronic exchange of information between the participants in AGF by means of uniform labelling using electronic messages. This standard allows companies within the AGF to make optimum use of the information available in the AGF chain and to apply it to order processing, tracing of products, optimising logistics and quality improvement. The result? A faster and more efficient AGF chain which is less error-prone.