



Global Location Number (GLN)

GLN provides a globally unique, standardised identifier that allows companies to answer the questions “who” and “where” within their own organisation and throughout the entire supply chain.

GLNs can be used to identify:

Parties identified by GLN include legal entities and functions. For example, a legal entity could be a corporation, subsidiary or government body. Functions are organisational subdivisions or departments, such as accounts receivable or quality assurance.

Locations include both physical and digital locations found throughout business. Locations identified with a GLN include places like warehouses, pharmacies, dock doors, ports, farms and ERP systems. When needed, locations inside larger facilities, like a room or shelf, can be assigned GLNs as well.

Where GLNs are used:

Data carriers - GLNs in barcodes can help to route products to their destination or capture where they came from. Use of EPC®/RFID and readers identified with GLNs can support automatically capturing the movement of goods without the need for line-of-sight scanning or other manual intervention.

Systems and communications - Sharing information relating to parties and locations using GLN within GS1 standards like EDI and EPCIS will enhance transitional data and physical event data.

How GLN can support industry needs

- Improve visibility and enable track and trace
- Save time on manual documentation and data entry
- Increase order and invoice process efficiencies
- Streamline communications throughout the supply chain
- Remove the need for proprietary identification codes that are not interoperable with trading partner systems
- Consolidate details and attributes relating to a party or location in one place
- Increase trust with business partners and consumers



GLN is fully compatible with ISO standard 6523. The International Code Designator (ICD) for GLN is ‘0088’.

GLN data structure:



Go to the [GLN page](#) at GS1.org to learn more.

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