



# GS1 Singapore Council

c/o Singapore Manufacturers' Federation  
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*[Note : SANC has changed its name to GS1 Singapore Council on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005]*

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## **Circular to All Members of GS1 Singapore Council**

### **E-Business Implementation Project By Major Retail Chains - NTUC Fairprice Group, Cold Storage Group, Carrefour Group, Watsons' Group & Sheng Siong Group**

Dear Members,

GS1 Singapore Council, together with IDA, Spring Singapore, major retail chains and major suppliers have agreed to adopt a common global e-business messaging standard for the implementation of e-business in Singapore among trading partners.

This global e-business messaging standard provides a common language that allows the IT systems of retailers and suppliers to communicate, making it possible for suppliers to receive purchase orders, send invoices, basically, transact electronically through one interface. New suppliers and retailers can also easily join existing supply chains because they know what "language" their IT systems need to be programmed in.

All service providers need to be certified by GS1 Singapore Council to participate in the e-business project. For certified service providers, please refer to GS1 Singapore Council-NEPC website at [www.nepc.gs1.org.sg](http://www.nepc.gs1.org.sg)

### **The Global Location Number Database**

The Global Location Number (GLN) is the party identification required in all e-business exchanges of messages such as purchase order, dispatch advice and invoices etc. GLN is issued by GS1 Singapore Council.

The GLN database is also known as Global EAN Party Information Registry (GEPIR). The GEPIR Network in Singapore has a registry of 1800 companies who are suppliers to retail chains in Singapore. The Singapore GEPIR is linked to GEPIR in 68 countries including UK, France, Germany, Netherlands,

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- GS stands for Global System, Global Standards and a Global Solution, all wrapped up in one.
  - The '1' represents both our number one position as a standards organization and the unification of commerce under one global system of standards. This also marks the joining of two global organization, EAN International and UCC.

We are maturing from simply being a standards making body to a standards and services organization. We aim to be :

- The number one standards organization in the world for the management of supply and demand chains
- To formalize our future by ensuring that we are represented as one global organization with a single corporate brand identity.
- To innovate a diversified portfolio of products and services.

GS1 Singapore Council is a component of Singapore Manufacturers' Federation. It is the national body that formulates and implements policies relating to EAN Bar Codes

Spain, Switzerland, the Scandinavian countries, East European countries, Japan, Korea, China, India, Singapore and USA. It is a showcase of Singapore companies to the world.

For more information on GLN/GEPIR, please contact Ms Joy Lee at Tel: 68263080 or email her at [sanc2@gs1.org.sg](mailto:sanc2@gs1.org.sg)

## **National Electronic Product Catalogue (NEPC)**

The NEPC has been further enhanced and is now operational. Its main function is to provide data synchronization between 2 trading partners for e-business.

The National Electronic Product Catalogue (NEPC) is an electronic database of product codes that serve as common reference for products. For example, ABC brand almond ice-cream may have product code 888 8086 570011, which is recognizable by suppliers' and retailers' systems. So when a supermarket needs to replenish its stock of this ice-cream, they only need to make reference to the code and its supplier will know what it wants. The NEPC is linked to GEPIR. With this link, more than 1,800 suppliers registered in the NEPC today are able to promote their products to over 1 million companies from over 68 countries including Asia, Europe, Latin America and the USA.

As such, the National Electronic Product Catalogue (NEPC) developed and managed by GS1 Singapore Council is the core system of the entire e-business project that gathers all product information in a standardized format paving the way for seamless electronic procurement in the supply chain.

The key objective of NEPC is to facilitate data synchronization that will enable error free e-business exchanges of electronic messages. It has been enhanced with new features like a section on new product listing, downloading of own company's product information and is available in Chinese version also.

All suppliers including manufacturers, importers and distributors are welcomed to submit product information to NEPC. There is no fee to be paid to GS1 Singapore Council for submission of product data to NEPC. However, if you wish to feature an image of your product in NEPC in conjunction with the product data, there will be a one-time fee of S\$65.00 per product image.

For companies who had previously submitted your product information to NEPC, you may wish to browse the NEPC and update the information at <http://www.nepc.sanc.org.sg> to ensure that all the product information supplied by you previously was accurate and up-to-date.

For companies whose products are not listed in NEPC and would like to have your product information listed in NEPC, please contact Ms Pauline Lim at Tel : 68263083 or email her at [plim@gs1.org.sg](mailto:plim@gs1.org.sg).

Should you require further clarifications or assistance in accessing NEPC, please contact Ms Pauline Lim.

## The Registry

Another critical part of the EBusiness Implementation Project is the Registry. The registry is the repository of the localized e-business XML message standards based on EAN.UCC XML Standards Version 1.3.1 and enables certification of localized e-business XML messages. Service providers who are using the localized e-business messages based on EAN.UCC XML Standards need to be certified by GS1 Singapore Council to ensure that they do conform to the e-business messaging standards for FMCG industry to enable seamless electronic transactions among trading partners. For your information, the major supermarket chains are currently conducting trials of exchanges of e-business messages with their selected suppliers based on EAN.UCC XML Standards Version 1.3.1. For more information on certification of service providers for exchanges of e-business messages with trading partners, please contact Ms Rosyati Mohd Said at Tel : 68263089 or email her at [rosyatims@gs1.org.sg](mailto:rosyatims@gs1.org.sg). Alternatively, you may also refer to our website [www.nepc.gs1.org.sg](http://www.nepc.gs1.org.sg) for more details.

Yours sincerely



Tan Jin Soon  
Executive Director  
GS1 Singapore Council