A WORD FROM OUR CEO ZINHLE TYIKWE
and GS1 Executives

GS1 South Africa continues to show the importance of the supply chain and move beyond the impact of the barcode. GS1 empowers the industry’s digital transformation to ultimately benefit consumers and patients. In the year ahead, the team’s focus will be on having conversations with the industry and supporting improvements in patient safety, sustainability, and circular economy initiatives.

The SMME Retail Ready initiative continues to welcome so many new members to the GS1 family. The SMME-focused programs and pricing were developed to help small businesses navigate easily through the process, which can at times be confusing. Our team helps ensure you’re quickly and efficiently generating your product barcodes and providing the right data and standardised images required by retailers, distributors, and other trading partners to get your products on store shelves and online platforms.

We wish to thank the team and the GS1 Council and Board for their continued support in championing the importance of the GS1 standards, especially with the region seeing accelerated digital transformation.

2D or not 2D?

Collaborating and innovating for a better world

“2D barcodes have immense potential, and we’re excited to see how they will improve traceability and stock management.” Richard Plunkett, General Manager for Business Enablement (Woolworths Australia)

The global 2D migration promises to deliver efficient supply chains underpinned by global standards. 2D barcodes look like squares or rectangles that contain many small, individual dots.

A single 2D barcode can hold a significant amount of information and may remain legible even when printed at a small size or etched onto a product. 2D barcodes are used in a wide range of industries, from manufacturing and warehousing to logistics and healthcare.

For brand owners, retailers, and solution providers to meet the needs of consumers expecting quick access to product information and product packaging containing too many symbols, brands and retailers can take advantage of more data to solve new business challenges.

A single 2D barcode can store up to 7,089 characters instead of the limited 20 characters of a 1D barcode. A 2D can encode a GTIN, expiry date, lot number, or serial number; provide internet links to ingredient and allergen information; product pics and videos; and consumer reviews. GS1 is supporting industries worldwide to harness the power of these barcodes and symbols to enable new business solutions for today and the future.

2D GTINs will support inventory management, traceability, safety, sustainability, consumer engagement, and improved packaging. 2D will also support consumer engagement through mobile devices to access content online and better engage with your products and brand, while also powering POS and other business processes.
GS1 South Africa Online barcode platform

Get unique Registered Global Trade Item Numbers for use in minutes!

Our members spoke, and we listened. In June 2022, we achieved a significant milestone in our digital transformation journey when we launched our online barcode registration portal. This feature allows our current and potential members to apply for new and additional barcodes online, pay for GS1 annual licenses, update their company and user profiles, and access Activate and Verified by GS1 with a single sign-on.

The platform has drastically reduced the turnaround time for applying for and receiving GS1 South African barcode numbers. All online purchases are handled through a secure payment gateway, after which you will be guided through the payment process. It’s that simple! What could take 24–48 hours now takes only a few minutes. Our easy-to-use user guide makes it easy for users to navigate the platform. Our online portal is the key to providing quick, efficient, and convenient service. Get your barcode online now and receive excellent customer service and great value for your time and money. If you have any further queries or want to understand more about barcodes and how they work, please visit our FAQs; otherwise, contact us for further assistance in helping you trade better.

Verified by GS1

Trust and efficiency start with a valid ID. Get product identity right with Verified by GS1.

We live in a world where data drives business. E-commerce websites offer millions of products to consumers, and billions of barcodes are scanned in physical stores every day. Unfortunately, retailers and marketplaces cannot confidently verify the products they sell using a single source of trusted product information. Now with Verified by GS1, you can answer the question, “Is this the product that I think it is?” Verified by GS1 provides:

- Brand owners or data providers are ultimately responsible for the data content and quality loaded into Verified by GS1. The long-term vision of Verified by GS1 is simple:
  1. every single product (past, present, and future) has a unique GTIN
  2. every single product can be verified using Verified by GS1
  3. every retailer only lists products with a GTIN that can be verified using Verified by GS1

Verified by GS1 plays an important role by providing a trusted source of product data that allows online marketplaces to verify the identity and owner of each product.

Verified by GS1 will make it easier for supply chain stakeholders to ensure that the products they are selling are genuine.

If you suspect illicit trade or counterfeit products call our Illicit Hotline by clicking here

Discover here how several industries have implemented and used Verified by GS1 Successfully.
GS1 South Africa Activate

GS1 Libya is the latest MO to launch the global Activate service component. Activate v3.6 is here with added features that include Improved Import Templates. The feature was developed after getting feedback from existing members on how complex it is to import their products using the current import process on Activate. Current GS1 South Africa numbers are:

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SMME Corner

Why are reseller barcodes compromised?

Many times, cheap ends up being expensive. SMMEs have fallen victim to applying for reseller barcodes that undermine the integrity of the GS1 System and get the shock of their professional lives, once they verify the original License holder of their Barcode number. Threats to the integrity of the GS1 System could cause interruptions and additional costs within the supply chain.

GTIN Resellers (*) are organisation or companies that acquire GTINs from a GS1 member company and sell them to manufacturers or suppliers. With issues such as traceability, counterfeiting, and customs authentication becoming more and more important to our world, having unique GTIN numbers becomes more important. Many SMME member organisations are experiencing and reacting to this concern.

GS1 South Africa is the only barcode and product numbering authority in South Africa. Being part of this international network gives you a wide range of efficient solutions, including the tools to build on and link your supply-chain processes, applications, and best practices. With thousands of local GS1 database members in South Africa and over 2 million worldwide, we offer a unique identification system for all your products and services to be traded both locally and globally.

The Global Electronic Party Information Register (GEPIR) is a distributed database that contains basic information on over 1,000,000 companies in over 100 countries. GEPIR is a valuable tool for ensuring the validity of the GS1 Keys. Query GTIN ownership here.

Why Global Data Synchronisation and Trusted Product Data Matters

The national and regional product catalogues are powered by Trusted Source and the 1 World Sync service. This makes it possible to provide trusted data to trading partners, consumers, and patients, which increases transparency into the products they buy and helps build supply chains that are more efficient, transparent, and safe.

The platform continues to bridge the physical and digital worlds, empowering the digital transformation by ensuring seamless flows of information and improving data quality.

We are pleased to have welcomed Silo, Uber Eats, X-Procure, Kit Kat, Take A Lot, and the Zambian Health Authorities as data recipients. This growth in data recipients is a sign of what we make possible.

GS1 South Africa Healthcare Update

Rwanda becomes the second country in Sub-Saharan Africa to publish regulations for pharmaceutical traceability using global GS1 standards. In August 2022, the Director General of Rwanda’s Food and Drug Authority (Rwanda FDA) signed the regulation that provides guidance to the stakeholders in Rwanda and beyond on how the country wishes to operate its pharmaceutical traceability system. These regulations take effect on the date of signature, i.e., August 2022 with first deadlines for compliance within two years of Rwanda’s signing of its traceability system.

The published documents are in alignment with global GS1 standards and trends, including the use of the GS1 Data Matrix that encodes the Global Trade Item Number (GTIN), Batch or Lot Number,
On September 12-14, stakeholders in the Middle East, Mediterranean, and Africa (MEMA) got together online and in person in Mauritius to re-connect and re-strategize on how best to work together to better engage with stakeholders in various sectors, identify common strategies, share success stories, and address common challenges. The MEMA regional forum 2022 was hosted by GS1 Mauritius and the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

The Prime Minister and Minister for Transport and International Relations from the government of Mauritius attended the opening ceremony and shared perspectives at this event attended by multiple stakeholders, including the CEO and staff from the GS1 Global Office and GS1 Member Organisations in MEMA.

The Minister of Land Transport and Light Rail, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration, and International Trade, Mr. Alan Ganoo; the Chairman, GS1 Mauritius, Mr. Eric Corson; the Chief Executive Officer, GS1 Global, Mr. Renaud de Barbout; members of the business community; and other personalities were present. Around 20 participants attended the regional forum, while other member organisations are participating virtually.

Nigeria publishes draft regulations for pharmaceutical traceability

In August 2022, Nigeria’s National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) published on their website draft regulations for the traceability of pharmaceutical products. Feedback is requested from various stakeholders by October 18, 2022. Feedback should be provided to NAFDAC via regulatoryaffairs@NAFDAC.gov.ng.

When approved by the authorities, this document is expected to provide guidance on how Nigeria will manage its pharmaceutical traceability system, including how products should be identified, marked, and relevant information shared systematically to allow for the security of the supply chain and introduce efficiencies.

This draft document is in addition to a draft master data guidance that is also in the pipeline to be approved by the authorities. The draft guidance on master data attributes required for implementation of traceability for pharmaceutical products in Nigeria was published in April 2022.
At the GS1 Annual Summit held on October 12, 2022, we were pleased to have Renaud de Barbuat, President and CEO of GS1 Global, address the summit audience to share the global GS1 perspective.
Alliance Partners and members who attended the summit commended the team on a successful summit.
GS1 E-Academy

GS1 South Africa is strengthening the Training and Education Network. Stay in touch with the GS1 Training Community via calls and workshops in 2023.

GS1 E-Academy: Easy Online Learning on GS1 Standards

To supplement the ongoing physical and face-to-face learning with member companies, our training and basic GS1 system education provide industry with the flexibility to learn at their own pace and convenience, allowing learners to access learning anywhere, at any time, and according to their business needs. These courses will help you gain a faster and more thorough understanding of the GS1 System of Standards to make adoption easier.

We noticed that during and since the COVID-19 pandemic and lockdowns, members expressed interest in obtaining more efficient, “bite-sized,” and detailed training sessions; therefore, we have leveraged the e-Academy platform of GS1 globally. The platform boasts a user-friendly interface, is made up of courses across the spectrum of the GS1 standards and is growing dynamically with time.

As we move into the new year, we will continue to work hard at helping our members understand the power of standards to transform the way we work and live. We have spent the past year collaborating with our members in new ways, building resilience, and redoubling our efforts to sustain high standards of quality in our work.

We wish all our members happiness and success for 2023!
Regulations to look out for:

The Agricultural Products Amendment Bill (APS Amendment Bill), 2021

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) regulations

Save the date! Events to look out for:

GS1 Global Forum
13–16 February 2023
https://forum.gs1.org/

Members of the Council:

Lourena Griebenow
IT Business Engagement & Strategy at The Shoprite Group of Companies Shoprite
Co-Chair, GS1 Council

Luigi Ferrini
Chief Customer Officer at Tiger Brands
Co-Chair, GS1 Council

Louis Veldsman
Financial Shared Service Center Manager PepsiCo and Pioneer Foods

Anni Andrag
BI Manager Rhodes Food Group

Viresh Sahdeo
Group IT Operations & Support Manager Spar

Marco Rademeyer
Head of Master Data and Data Governance Pick n Pay

Neil Perkins
Head of Master Data Massmart

Dr. Adheesh Budree
Associate Professor at University of Cape Town and Ecommerce Forum Africa

Andile Ngwenya
Performance Reporting & Master Data Management Senior Manager at Unilever

Michele Francis-Padayachee
Executive GS1 South Africa