



# FOREWORD FROM OUR CEO

## August 2025 Newsletter

### Dear GS1 South Africa Community,

It is my privilege to welcome you to the latest edition of our newsletter. As we navigate an era shaped by rapid digital transformation, evolving regulations, and increasing demands for transparency and sustainability, GS1 South Africa remains committed to equipping businesses of all sizes with the trusted data they need to thrive.

Earlier this year, our global community launched Vision 2030, a five-year strategy building on more than 50 years of GS1 leadership in standards and innovation. Locally, we have been actively involved in shaping and implementing this roadmap, ensuring South African industries can:

- Get products to market faster and more efficiently while meeting regulatory and consumer expectations.
- Share accurate, meaningful data seamlessly across the value chain, from suppliers and manufacturers to retailers and end-users.
- Strengthen supply chain transparency and safety, whether it's tracking fresh produce from farm to fork or ensuring the integrity of medical products from factory to patient.
- Advance sustainability by embedding responsible data practices that reduce waste, optimise resources, and measure impact.

In a world where artificial intelligence and advanced analytics are transforming industries, high-quality data is no longer optional. It is the foundation of growth and resilience. That is why GS1 South Africa is dedicated to powering trusted, interoperable data flows that unlock innovation and drive shared value for businesses, consumers, and society.



As we celebrate half a century of barcode-driven progress, we stand on the cusp of an exciting new chapter. The unanimous global endorsement of Vision 2030 at the GS1 General Assembly in Mumbai this May reflects our collective ambition and spirit of collaboration.

Together with our members, partners, and stakeholders, GS1 South Africa will continue to lead the way. We are here to provide you with the standards, tools, and insights you need to succeed in today's digital economy.

**Thank you for your continued trust and engagement. If your organisation is ready to harness the power of trusted data, I invite you to connect with our team at [info@gs1za.org](mailto:info@gs1za.org) or visit [www.gs1za.org](http://www.gs1za.org) to explore membership benefits and support services.**

**Zinhle Tyikwe**  
**CEO, GS1 South Africa**

## GS1 Vision 2030: Helping businesses, consumers, patients and society



GS1 South Africa CEO Zinhle Tyikwe at the **General Assembly 2025 CEO Workshop**

Businesses today are navigating rapid digital change, growing regulatory pressures and rising expectations for transparency and sustainability. GS1, the global not-for-profit standards organization best known for the barcode, has launched Vision 2030 a five-year global strategy designed to help industries grow, innovate and meet regulatory demands in a data-driven world.

In a world increasingly shaped by digital transformation and AI, companies across industries face new challenges. GS1 Vision 2030 is our global strategy to help businesses of all sizes unlock the value of trusted, interoperable data to help them adapt and succeed.

### That means:

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Helping businesses of all sizes get their products to market and meet evolving expectations



Making it easier to share accurate, meaningful information with customers and partners



Supporting safer, more transparent supply chains from farm to factory and shelf to patient care



Empowering industries to meet sustainability goals and build more responsible systems

In an AI-driven economy, data quality isn't optional—it's everything. That's why GS1 Vision 2030 is focused on powering trusted data. When data can be trusted and shared seamlessly, the possibilities for innovation and impact multiply—for businesses, patients, consumers and society.

The global approval of GS1 Vision 2030—endorsed unanimously by all GS1 Member Organisations at the GS1 General Assembly in Mumbai, India, marks a historic moment for GS1.

It comes just over 50 years after the barcode was first scanned, signalling the beginning of a new chapter for global commerce. With renewed ambition and deeper collaboration, GS1 is committed to enabling trusted data flows that empower industries to lead responsibly in a digital and AI-driven world.

## Aspen Joins GS1 Global Management Board – A Historic First for Africa

We are proud to announce that Lorraine Hill, Group Chief Operations Officer of Aspen Pharmacare Holdings Limited, has joined the GS1 Global Office Management Board.

This marks a significant milestone as Aspen becomes the first African company to be seated on the main board of GS1.

Aspen's inclusion reflects the growing influence and contribution of African enterprises on the global stage, particularly in the healthcare sector.

With Lorraine Hill's leadership, Aspen brings a unique perspective that will further enrich GS1's global mission of transforming supply chains through standards and collaboration.



LORRAINE HILL



# Welcoming Jodi Ryan & Lance Jason to the GS1 South Africa Global Standards Technology Committee

## Welcome Jodi Ryan & Lance Jason to the Global Standards Technology Committee!

GS1 South Africa is proud to announce the appointment of Jodi Ryan, Commercialisation Coordinator at Dis-Chem Pharmacies, as the newest member of the Global Standards Technology Committee (GSTC) and Lance Jason, Head of Data Management at Shoprite Checkers.

Jodi brings a wealth of industry knowledge and a deep understanding of healthcare retail to GSTC. In her role at Dis-Chem, she has been instrumental in driving the implementation of commercial and data-led initiatives that align with global best practices — making her a natural fit for this strategic committee.

With over 20 years of experience in financial services and a year in retail, Lance brings deep expertise in data management, governance, and analytics. Known for developing innovative data solutions, he has successfully aligned data strategies with business goals, delivered actionable insights, and navigated complex regulatory environments. Lance's focus on data as a strategic asset continues to drive value and mitigate risk across industries.

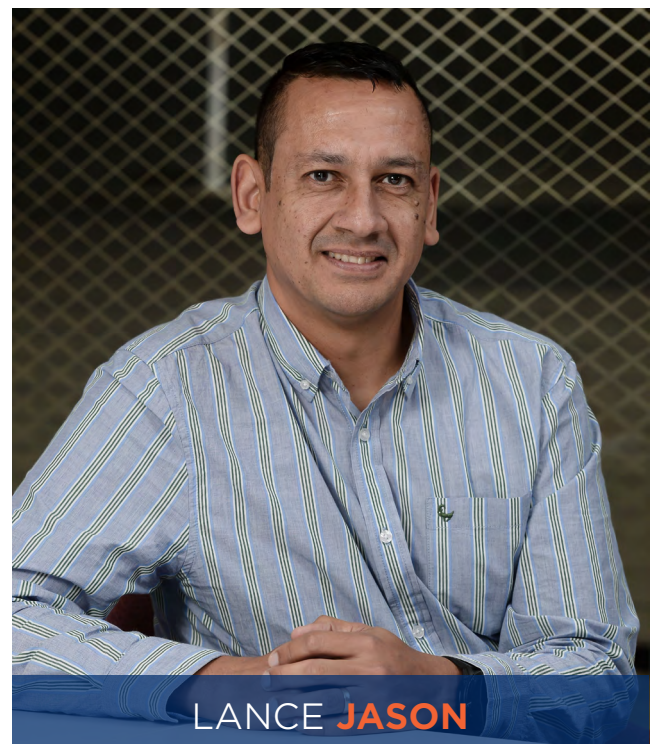
The GSTC plays a vital role in guiding the direction and impact of GS1 standards by:

- Ensuring strong governance across GS1 activities,
- Validating that GS1's strategy is both realistic and industry-aligned,
- Monitoring financial health, and
- Reporting back to the GS1 SA Board.

The committee also assesses and approves industry projects, ensuring they are viable, aligned to real business needs, and clearly defined in scope, funding, and timelines.

With Jodi's & Lance's experience and insight, we're confident they will add immense value to our ongoing mission of building a globally connected, locally relevant standards ecosystem.

Join us in congratulating Jodi and welcoming her to the GSTC!



# GS1 Registries

## Advancing Trusted Trade: GS1 South Africa, Kenya & China Unite to Launch the China-Africa Trade Digitalization Trust Verification Platform

We're proud to announce a milestone collaboration—GS1 South Africa and GS1 Kenya have officially signed a Memorandum of Understanding with GS1 China to advance trusted, transparent, and efficient trade between Africa and China.

This partnership comes on the heels of the 2024 Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) Beijing Summit, where digital trust and cross-border trade were recognized as key pillars for mutual growth.

### Why it matters:

Africa's consumer markets are booming—and China remains the continent's largest trading partner. Yet, the lack of effective product verification has hindered the smooth flow of goods. That's why we're thrilled to be part of the "China-Africa". An initiative led by GS1 China in response to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by the China International Development Cooperation Agency (CIDCA) under its China-Africa Quality Enhancement Program.

### The platform leverages GS1 global standards to:



Enable product identity and credibility verification



Improve customs clearance and regulatory efficiency



Combat counterfeit products and fraud



Promote African products in Chinese markets



Support seamless circulation of goods on both sides

At the heart of this initiative is the GS1 Registry Platform and Verified by GS1, empowering stakeholders to trust what they trade—without reinventing the wheel.

**This is more than a technical upgrade—it's a strategic shift.**

By embracing international standards and digital identification, we're building a reliable and scalable trade infrastructure that benefits brand owners, customs authorities, retailers, and consumers alike.

Together, we're not just solving cross-border challenges—we're setting a precedent for how GS1 Member Organisations worldwide can leverage collaboration and existing infrastructure to build the future of digital trade. This is just the beginning.

**Let's continue unlocking new pathways for trusted trade across continents.**



# Marketplaces

## Takealot Boosts Product Trust with Verified by GS1

As South Africa's leading e-commerce platform, Takealot is enhancing customer confidence and data accuracy through Verified by GS1.

By integrating this service into its Seller and Supplier Portals, Takealot enables sellers to validate their products' GS1 GTINs before listing—ensuring data is accurate, reliable, and brand-authorised. The result? Faster listings, fewer errors, and a more trustworthy shopping experience for consumers.

While GTIN verification is currently optional, Takealot plans to make it mandatory and expand validation to include additional GS1 product attributes, reinforcing its commitment to transparency and integrity.

“We're using barcodes to validate the integrity of listed products—to know more about them, their source, and to ensure consistency across all systems.”

— Sonja Krause, Head of Product - Merchants at Takealot

Verified by GS1 helps answer the critical question: “Is this product what I think it is?” By using GTINs as unique identifiers.

### Takealot gains:



**Enhanced transparency:** Customers get accurate, trusted product data.



**Improved seller accountability:** Sellers follow clear data standards.



**Operational efficiency:** Streamlined listing and validation processes.

Takealot's adoption of GS1 standards marks a key step in shaping the future of trusted digital retail in Africa.

[Learn more at takealot.com](https://www.takealot.com)



## Struggling with barcode rejections?

They slow you down and cost you sales. Switch to GS1 barcodes — globally recognised, retailer-approved. Reduce returns. Scale with confidence on Takealot.

[JOIN US](#)

takealot.com



# GS1 Healthcare 20th anniversary

## Safer, smarter care starts with a simple scan

### Celebrating 20 years of GS1 Healthcare: One scan at a time

Two decades ago, GS1 brought barcode technology into the world of healthcare, revolutionizing how medical products are identified, tracked, and managed across the global supply chain. This pivotal moment united the healthcare community around a shared mission: to make healthcare safer and more efficient for everyone, everywhere.

Since then, every scan powered by GS1 standards has done more than move a product—it's helped protect a patient. From manufacturing to the point of care, that simple “beep” has become a symbol of trust, enabling smarter decisions, stronger traceability, and safer outcomes.

Join us in celebrating 20 years of progress, partnership, and the power of one barcode.

GS1 barcodes have become indispensable in global healthcare supply chains. From streamlining inventory management to enabling unique identification of medicines and medical devices, these barcodes, and the global standards behind them, have laid the foundation for safer, smarter care.

Regulators rely on GS1 standards to ensure globally harmonised pharmaceutical traceability. Today, the GS1 DataMatrix, a next generation barcode, is recommended or mandated in healthcare regulations across more than 70 countries. With over 16.5 billion medicine packs in the U.S. and EU alone carrying GS1 DataMatrix barcodes annually, the system has become a cornerstone of global healthcare.

Scanning GS1 DataMatrix barcodes allows healthcare professionals to verify the correct medication, dose, and patient in real time. In operating rooms, barcodes help track surgical instruments, so all tools are sterilised and accounted for before and after surgery, reducing risks for patients.

GS1 is working with leading global technology companies to ensure barcodes on medical products can be scanned by patients with their smartphones worldwide, giving instant access to critical information about treatments—all in one simple scan.



Safer, smarter care starts with a simple scan

For more information,

Click Here

# Events

## GS1 South Africa Indaba 2025

### GS1 South Africa Indaba 2025: Accelerating Transparency, Trust & Transformation

The GS1 South Africa Indaba 2025, hosted at The Focus Room, built on the momentum of the 2024 edition under the powerful theme: “Transparency, Trust, and Transformation.” The event brought together industry leaders, SMMEs, and innovators to explore how GS1 Standards, 2D barcoding, and digital identity are driving progress across retail, healthcare, and supply chains in Africa. Event Highlights:

- Digital Transformation in Action:** Woolworths Australia and Wipotec showcased cutting-edge applications of 2D barcode migration, providing real-world insights into how next-generation standards are reshaping global commerce. South African retailers signalled their intent to collaborate in adopting these solutions locally.
- Building Consumer Trust:** A compelling panel featuring Takealot and the CIPC unpacked the

role of GS1’s Verified by GS1 tool in combating illicit trade and counterfeit goods. The session sparked strong calls for a dedicated, marketplace-focused Indaba to tackle sector-specific regulatory and consumer protection challenges.

- Empowering SMMEs:** Entrepreneurs from BSMS Chilli House and Yamama Gemmer shared inspiring journeys of growth enabled through GS1 membership — now proudly listed with national retailers including Massmart and Pick n Pay. Their stories underscored the role of standards in opening market access and scaling small business operations.
- Strengthening Healthcare Traceability:** Healthcare experts emphasized the urgent need for secure and reliable medical supply chains. Presentations highlighted NEPAD’s harmonization initiatives and the African Medicines Agency’s progress — marking a pivotal step toward improved regional health system integrity.

## Save the Date: The next Indaba will take place on 16 April 2026.


#GS1SAINDABA2025

# INDABA

## '25

Master of Ceremonies


Speakers



**Neo Momodu**  
Executive, Legal, Regulatory & Stakeholder Engagement  
GS1 South Africa



**Zinhle Tylkwe**  
CEO  
GS1 South Africa



**Johann Vorster**  
CEO  
Clover



**Dr Stavros Nicolaou**  
Group Senior Executive  
Aspen Pharmcare Holdings Ltd.



**Mxolisi Maphakela**  
Senior Manager; Research & Strategic Planning  
WBR Sete Speaker



**Alastair Tempest**  
CEO  
Ecommerce Forum Africa



**Abraham Nelson**  
Executive, Consumer Goods Risk Initiative  
GS1 South Africa



**Justin Needham**  
Managing Director  
Imagined Earth



**Amanda Lotheringen**  
Senior Manager  
CIPC



**Dr Phillip Oosthuizen**  
Chief Operation Officer  
Red Meat Industry Services



**Roberto Olivares Villa**  
Senior Project Manager  
Woolworths Limited



**Yaesh Moosa**  
Head of Marketplace  
Takealot



**Volker Ditscher**  
Director Track & Trace  
WIPOTEC



**Mosibudi Makgato**  
Co-Owner  
Yamama Gemmer



**Babe Sophie Masuge**  
CEO  
BSMS Chilli House



**Viresh Sahdeo**  
Master Data & Governance Manager  
The SPAR Group



**Chimwenwe Chamdimba**  
Principal Programme Officer  
The African Union Development Agency-NEPAD (AUDA-NEPAD)







[Read the Indaba 2025 report here](#)

## GS1 South Africa E – Funda Training Campaign

### Learn. Empower. Transform. | E-Funda with GS1 South Africa

At GS1 South Africa, we believe knowledge is the key to growth — and with our E-Funda campaign, we’re putting learning into action.

“E-Funda” means “learn” in isiZulu, and this campaign is all about empowering businesses, entrepreneurs, and supply chain professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to thrive in a data-driven world. Through a series of accessible workshops, webinars, and learning materials, E-Funda brings global standards down to earth — practical, local, and ready to use.

From understanding barcoding basics to exploring traceability, product identification, and digital transformation, E-Funda is your opportunity to level up your business with the power of standards. Whether you’re a startup entering the retail space or a seasoned supplier navigating compliance, E-Funda has something for you. Join the movement. Learn with purpose. Grow with confidence.



Email [training@gs1za.org](mailto:training@gs1za.org) to discover upcoming sessions and resources.

Let’s learn, together.

## Driving Industry Impact Through Member Engagement

At GS1 South Africa, our mission to advance transparency, efficiency, and trust across industries continues to gain momentum — thanks to the invaluable partnerships and engagements with our members. Through collaborative sessions, workshops, and on-the-ground support, we’ve been actively working with businesses of all sizes to unlock the full value of GS1 Standards.

### From retail to healthcare, manufacturing to logistics, these engagements are helping organisations:



Embrace 2D barcoding and digital product identity



Improve supply chain visibility and traceability



Enhance data accuracy and regulatory compliance



Access new markets through global-standard labelling

Whether it’s guiding SMMEs on their first steps with barcoding, supporting large retailers with system migrations, or facilitating dialogues between industry and regulators, our focus remains on empowering our members to grow and innovate.

As we continue to engage across sectors, we’re reminded that standards are more than just technology — they’re the foundation for connected, competitive, and resilient businesses. Let’s continue building stronger supply chains, one barcode at a time.

# We Were There

Pharmacy show 2025: 5th to 6th 2025



**EXHIBITOR**

5TH-6TH  
MARCH  
2025

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South Africa

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## SAPICS

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SAPICS 2025

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# GS1 Global Forum 2025: Noordwijk- Amsterdam & Virtual: 17-20 February

## Global Forum is where GS1 unites to shape the future.

The GS1 Global Forum brought together GS1 Member Organisation (MO) staff and board members to align on our common vision and strategies, empowering MOs to drive initiatives that make a local and global impact for the benefit of industries, consumers and patients worldwide.



110 GS1 Member Organisation (MO) staff and board members



Over 2,000 participants worldwide (virtual & in-person)

For the first time since 2017, we were together in ONE location which offered extraordinary networking opportunities for those who were able to join in-person!

## Everyone Makes A Difference Award

### Third-Time GS1 South Africa Winner!

We are thrilled to announce that, for the third time in our history, GS1 South Africa has secured the coveted “Everyone Makes a Difference” Award at the GS1 Global Forum.

This year, our very own Michele Francis Padayachee—a dynamic leader in our local Member Organisation—was honoured for her outstanding dedication and visionary contributions to the GS1 community.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Tim and Jenny Smucker for their generosity and unwavering support of the GS1 vision and community. Your commitment helps us empower local innovation and collaboration.

We celebrate unity and achievement with the “Everyone Makes a Difference” awards. Your passion, dedication, and collective vision have truly set the bar.

**Here’s to our winners—and to every participant who contributes to our shared success!**



# Public Policy and Regulatory Impacts of Standards

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## Staying ahead of regulatory change

In South Africa's fast-moving consumer goods sector, staying informed about new regulations is essential for compliance and smooth market access. GS1 South Africa is committed to keeping you up to date with the latest developments.



### Sweeping Changes to South Africa's Spirit Regulations

The Department of Agriculture has announced major amendments to the Liquor Products Act regulations, set to take effect on 14 March 2025. These changes will align South Africa's spirits sector with global standards, affecting both local and international producers.

Key updates include:

- **New Minimum Alcohol by Volume (ABV):** The minimum ABV for most spirits will now be 40%, a change from the previous 43%. However, potstill and estate brandy will maintain a minimum ABV of 38%.
- **Introduction of New Categories:** The regulations will introduce new classes for "Flavoured Spirits" (e.g., flavoured gin, vodka) with a minimum ABV of 35%, and "Agave Spirits" (like Tequila and Mezcal), also with a 35% minimum ABV. A "Low in Alcohol Spirit Aperitif" class will be established for products with an ABV between 24% and 35%.
- **Bottle Sizes Remain Unchanged:** It is important to note that the amendments do not include changes to container sizes. Products sold in South Africa must continue to comply with the 750ml bottle size requirement.
- **Transition Period:** The industry has been granted a two-year transition period, until December 31, 2027, to ensure existing products meet the new requirements.



## New Regulations for Meat Analogues Aim to Ensure Clarity and Consumer Protection

The Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development has published new regulations governing the sale of meat analogue products in South Africa. Effective from July 2026, the regulations set clear labelling, composition, and marketing standards to protect consumers and ensure transparency.

From mandatory use of descriptive names like “plant-based burger” to restrictions on the use of animal imagery and misleading claims, the changes impact manufacturers, retailers, and importers. GS1 South Africa is supporting industry stakeholders by providing guidance on GTIN management and traceability to ensure compliance and maintain accurate product identification across the supply chain.

The regulations introduce several mandatory requirements that have GTIN-related implications:

- **Clear Descriptive Naming:** Products must be labelled using terms like “plant-based burger” or “vegan sausage” and may no longer include animal terms (e.g., “beef-style” or “chick’n”) or imagery.
- **Protein Content Requirements:** Specific product types (e.g. burger, sausage, mince) must contain a minimum of 9% protein to be classified as a meat analogue.
- **Label Accuracy:** Inclusion of the manufacturer name, traceability/batch ID, and country of origin is mandatory.
- **Ingredient Declarations:** Use of flavouring or added foodstuffs (e.g. “with mushrooms”) must be accurately declared in compliance with QUID regulations.
- **Prohibited Claims:** Comparative and misleading claims such as “like chicken” or “meat-free steak” are restricted.

# Contact us



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**GS1 South Africa**



**GS1 South Africa**



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