



Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions for Anything4Restaurants.com Suppliers

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Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

REVISION HISTORY

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3/21/2011	3	Remove statement that A4R is accepting only items in Foodservice and Jan/San categories.	L. Burton

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
ANYTHING4RESTAURANTS.COM	3
GENERAL DATA SYNCHRONIZATION QUESTIONS	4
ANYTHING4RESTAURANTS.COM DATA SYNCHRONIZATION INITIATIVE	7
General Anything4Restaurants.com Questions.....	7
Data Pools and Solution Partners	7
PUBLISHING DATA TO ANYTHING4RESTAURANTS.COM	9

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

INTRODUCTION

This document is a compilation of questions, and their associated answers, relative to Anything4Restaurants.com's Data Synchronization initiative. It pertains to all suppliers that want to synchronize data with Anything4Restaurants.com.

ANYTHING4RESTAURANTS.COM

- **Q: Who is Anything4Restaurants.com?**
 - A: Anything4Restaurants.com (A4R.com) is a website community that services primarily the Foodservice, Healthcare and Jan/San Industries.
 - A4R.com maintains the largest community of Foodservice Products on the World Wide Web.
- **Q: Why should I publish and synchronize data with Anything4Restaurants.com?**
 - A: At present, there are more than 3,000 Suppliers listed on A4R and well over 130,000 products
 - Very Popular with Search Engines
 - More than 2000 words/Phrases on the First Page of Google
 - Will Receive Higher Rank than Supplier even for most Popular Brands
- **Q: What are the benefits of listing my products on the Anything4Restaurants.com Website?**
 - A: Advertising - A4R.com offers Cost Effective Advertising with Impressions less than \$1 per thousand.
 - Advertise Products to More than 40,000/Month Food Service Professionals
 - Largest Community of Food Service Products on the Web
 - Supports Integration of All Media
 - Advanced Search Capabilities Allow for Easy Use
 - Lead generation - A4R Generated hundreds of leads in the Last 30 day for Preferred Suppliers.
 - Ability to Link from A4R to Suppliers Home Website

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

GENERAL DATA SYNCHRONIZATION QUESTIONS

- **Q: What is Data Synchronization?**

- A: Data synchronization is the electronic transfer of standardized **product** and **location** information between trading partners and the continuous synchronization of that data over time. When this data is exchanged via a central global repository - GS1 Global Registry™, it is referred to as Global Data Synchronization.

Product information includes:

- Item attributes controlled by the supplier, e.g., Global Trade Item Number (GTIN), Size, Weight, Height, Brand, UPC code

Location information includes:

- Global Location Number (GLN) – Locations involved in trade such as company headquarters, billing departments, and ship-to addresses

- **Q: What is the Global Data Synchronization Network® (GDSN®)?**

- A: The GDSN is an automated, standards-based global environment that enables secure and continuous data synchronization. This allows all trading partners to have consistent item data in their systems at the same time, ensuring that all parties in the supply chain are working with the same data. The GDSN helps to save time and money for all organizations by eliminating steps to correct inaccurate data.
- A: The GDSN enables the GS1 Global Registry and a network of interoperable, certified data pools that enable data synchronization per GS1 System standards.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

- **Q: What are the benefits of synchronizing data through the GDSN?**
 - A: There are several benefits, including:
 - Allows real-time item maintenance for specific fields
 - Provides accurate, standards based, synchronized data that reduces inefficiencies in the supply chain
 - Ensures dimensions are correct and stored at the each, case, warehouse pack, and pallet levels

- **Q: What is a data pool? What is a GDSN-certified data pool?**
 - A: An entity that provides its customers data synchronization services and a single point of entry to the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) is called a data pool.
 - A: Data pools must be certified per GS1 System standards to operate within the GDSN. Data pools interoperate with the GS1 Global Registry and each other. Example: 1SYNC Data Pool.

Note: 1SYNC is a not-for-profit subsidiary of GS1 US; the standards organization for the United States

- **Q: Where can I find a list of GDSN-certified data pools?**
 - A: The GS1 website has a list of GDSN-certified data pools with contact information. You can find the list here
<http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/gdsn/>

- **Q: What is a company prefix?**
 - A: A company prefix is a globally unique number assigned to companies by GS1 Member Organizations (GS1 US in the United States) to create the identification numbers of the GS1 System. It is comprised of a GS1 Prefix and a Company Number.

- **Q: What is a GLN?**
 - A: GLN is an acronym for “Global Location Number” and refers to the globally unique GS1 System identification number for legal entities, functional entities, and physical locations. A GLN is comprised of 13 digits that together represent a GS1 Company Prefix, Location Reference, and ‘check digit’. Supply side trading partner locations generally include corporate headquarters, regional offices, warehouses, plants, and distribution centers. Demand side trading partner locations generally include corporate headquarters, divisional offices, stores, and distribution centers.
 - **Note:** The Anything4Restaurants.com GLN is **1100001012367**.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

- **Q: What is a GTIN?**

- A: GTIN is an acronym for "Global Trade Item Number" and refers to the globally unique GS1 System identification number for products and services. A GTIN may be 8, 12, 13, or 14 digits in length, represented as GTIN-8, GTIN-12, GTIN-13, and GTIN-14, respectively.

- **Q: Is data synchronization an Information Technology (IT) function? Does it require IT resources?**

- A: Data Synchronization is a business process that uses technology in its implementation. For a successful implementation, it is recommended to have executive sponsorship and technology resources allocated to this program.

- **Q: Is data synchronization just another term for EDI?**

- A: No. EDI is used in the transmission of many e-business transactions, whereas data synchronization is the electronic transmission of standardized product and location information.

- **Q: What is the Global Product Classification (GPC) code?**

- A: A GPC code is an 8-digit number that represents a classification of products. It is a 'flat' classification system based on attributes and values. Global Product Classification is a required element of the global data based on attributes, and values and is a required element of the GDSN.

Note: If you need a list of GPC codes contact your data pool (e.g. 1SYNC). To request a GPC code to be added to standards, work with your data pool (e.g. 1SYNC) or your Solution Partner to submit a change request.

- **Q: How do I know if I need to assign a new Universal Product Code (UPC) when I make changes to an existing product?**

A: Follow the GS1 Standards GTIN Allocation Rules. For example, if the consumer net content changes, then a new UPC must be assigned. For more information on GTIN Allocation Rules visit www.gs1.org/gtinrules. Contact your data pool for more information.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

ANYTHING4RESTAURANTS.COM DATA SYNCHRONIZATION INITIATIVE

General Anything4Restaurants.com Questions

- **Q: Why is Anything4Restaurants.com implementing data synchronization?**
 - A: Anything4Restaurants.com is implementing data synchronization to streamline its processes, focusing on improving supply chain efficiencies for Anything4Restaurants.com and its trading partners. Anything4Restaurants.com believes data synchronization provides tangible benefits for retailers and suppliers such as:
 - Reduced hand keying for creation of items
 - Enabling real time updates for item maintenance
 - Increasing the efficiency of businesses
 - Building the foundation for electronic collaborative commerce
- **Q: Are all of Anything4Restaurants.com suppliers required to implement data synchronization via the GDSN?**
 - A: At this time Anything4Restaurants.com recommends that all of its suppliers begin utilizing the GDSN.

Data Pools and Solution Partners

- **Q: What is a GDSN-certified data pool?**
 - A: See Section 2.1 of this document for answers to general Data Synchronization questions
- **Q: What/who is 1SYNC™?**
 - A: 1SYNC is a neutral, not-for-profit GDSN-certified data pool and is working closely with Anything4Restaurants.com to implement its data synchronization initiative. Anything4Restaurants.com uses the 1SYNC Data Pool Solution for its GDSN services.
 - A: A subsidiary of GS1 US, 1SYNC supports and works with over 50 retailers and 5,000 suppliers (of all sizes). To learn more about 1SYNC and its services, visit www.1SYNC.org or call +1 866.280.4013, Option 1.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

- **Q: Do I have to sign up with 1SYNC™?**
 - A: You need to select a GDSN-certified data pool to get started and 1SYNC is a GDSN-certified data pool. If you are not currently a member of 1SYNC, we recommend you get started right away by contacting them at +1 866.280.4013, Option 1.
- **Q: How much does implementing data synchronization cost?**
 - A: 1SYNC, as a not-for-profit neutral organization, operates on a cost-recovery model and fees are calculated based on your company's total annual sales. Visit http://1sync.org/subscription_fees.html for more details.
- **Q: What is a 1SYNC Solution Partner?**
 - A: A Solution Partner is a company that enables supply chain functions through the provision of products and services. A *1SYNC Certified Solution Partner* refers to a company that has been certified by 1SYNC to connect to the 1SYNC Data Pool. 1SYNC customers have the option to choose a certified Solution Partner to assist in managing their data synchronization initiative. For a full list of *1SYNC Certified Solution Partners*, visit www.1sync.org/partnerships and search for a Solution Partner that meets your needs.
- **Q: Do I have to use a 1SYNC Solution Partner?**
 - A: 1SYNC provides customers with multiple implementation options to successfully synchronize data with Anything4Restaurants.com. 1SYNC offers implementation tools for customers and has partnered with some of the largest and most well-known companies in the world, including many that suppliers may already be working with today. A supplier can implement with the solution that best fits their needs and requirements.
- **Q: If I have questions and need help to use the 1SYNC system – who should I contact?**
 - A: For questions associated with GDSN or Anything4Restaurants.com's data synchronization initiative please contact 1SYNC customer support at customersupport@1sync.org or +1 866.280.4013.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

- **Q: I use data pool "X" or Solution Partner "Y" and have a question about how to use their system – who should I contact?**
 - A: For questions associated with GDSN, the first source for information should be your data pool. The data pool you select should be able to answer or provide proper direction for all your questions associated with data synchronization.

PUBLISHING DATA TO ANYTHING4RESTAURANTS.COM

- **Q: I want to synchronize my item information with Anything4Restaurants.com. Where do I start?**
 - A: Please see the Anything4Restaurants.com Implementation Guide for more details regarding implementation requirements or contact Anything4Restaurants.com by calling 800-393-8807 or via email at info@anything4restaurants.com.

The steps to get started are:

1. Have your accurate item data loaded into your home data pool and ensure it is ready for publication in production. Contact your data pool for any education you might require to complete this step.
2. Review the attribute requirements in the Anything4Restaurants.com Implementation Guide to ensure you can meet our requirements.
3. Send the following information to the Anything4Restaurants.com primary data synchronization contact listed in Section 3 of the Implementation Guide.
 - a. Supplier's Information Provider GLN
 - b. Email address and phone number for Supplier's Primary Data Synchronization Contact
 - c. What GDSN data pool are you subscribed to
4. Anything4Restaurants.com will create a subscription for your information provider GLN/Target Market U.S.
5. Anything4Restaurants.com will send an email notification to the supplier's primary data synchronization contact when they are ready to receive the first publications.
6. Publish Item Information:
 - a. The Anything4Restaurants.com GLN is 1100001012367.
 - b. Anything4Restaurants.com is ready to receive publications for items in all GPC categories.
 - c. All items should be published to Anything4Restaurants.com with a publication type of "New Item".
 - d. Anything4Restaurants.com will accept supplier publications directly in the Production environment.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

7. Anything4Restaurants.com will determine if we carry the item and if so, Anything4Restaurants.com will compare various attributes that are currently in their database to verify the item match.
 8. Any attribute discrepancies will be referred back to the supplier's data sync team if Anything4Restaurants.com believes the data issue is supplier related for resolution.
 9. Anything4Restaurants.com will use the Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC) message as follows:
 - a. A CIC with the state of "ACCEPT" will automatically be sent when publication is received if there are no issues with the data.
 - b. A CIC with the state of "REVIEW" will be sent if there are missing attributes or data discrepancies.
 - c. A CIC with the state of "SYNCHRONIZED" will be sent after Anything4Restaurants.com has updated their system and the item information has been posted to the website.
 - d. A CIC with the state of "REJECT" will be sent if the published item is in a category not supported by Anything4Restaurant.com.
 10. Suppliers should continue to send changes and correction for the items synchronized with Anything4Restaurants.com
- **Q: How does Anything4Restaurants.com Subscribe?**
 - A: Anything4Restaurants.com will create a subscription for your information provider GLN/Target Market U.S.
 - **Q: Is Anything4Restaurants.com checking the Initial Load or New Publication Types for incoming Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) publications?**
 - A: Anything4Restaurants.com will accept either publication type, New Item or Initial Item Load.

Anything4Restaurants.com Data Synchronization Initiative

- **Q: When can I expect to see the Catalog Item Confirmation (CIC Authorization)?**
 - A: After Anything4Restaurants.com receives the Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) it is subjected to matching and validation rules. The Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC) is generated immediately after those rules are executed.
- **Q: What are the possible responses (states) of a CIC (Authorization) that I can expect to see?**
 - A: Anything4Restaurants.com will use the Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC) message as follows:
 - a. A CIC with the state of "ACCEPT" will automatically be sent when publication is received if there are no issues with the data.
 - b. A CIC with the state of "REVIEW" will be sent if there are missing attributes or data discrepancies.
 - c. A CIC with the state of "SYNCHRONIZED" will be sent after Anything4Restaurants.com has updated their system and the item information has been posted to the website.
 - d. A CIC with the state of "REJECT" will be sent if the published item is in a category not supported by Anything4Restaurant.com.
- **Q: How will Anything4Restaurants.com handle ongoing Data Synchronization?**
 - A: Suppliers should continue to send changes and correction through GDSN for the items synchronized with Anything4Restaurants.