



**C&S Wholesale Grocers Data Synchronization Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions for C&S Wholesale Grocers Suppliers**

Version 1

REVISION HISTORY

| Date | Ver # | Description of Change | Author |
|-------------|--------------|------------------------------|---------------|
| 12-27-2017 | 1 | Initial document | B. Curran |
| 5-24-2018 | 1.1 | Data Sync Contact Update | B. Curran |

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Introduction | 4 |
| C&S Wholesale Grocers | 4 |
| General Data Synchronization Questions..... | 4 |
| C&S Wholesale Grocers Data Synchronization Initiative..... | 6 |
| <i>GENERAL C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS QUESTIONS</i> | <i>6</i> |
| <i>DATA POOLS AND SOLUTION PARTNERS.....</i> | <i>7</i> |
| <i>PUBLISHING DATA TO C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS</i> | <i>8</i> |

Introduction

This document is a compilation of questions, and their associated answers, relative to C&S Wholesale Grocers Data Synchronization initiative.

C&S Wholesale Grocers

- **Q: Who is C&S Wholesale Grocers?**

A: Today, C&S Wholesale Grocers is the lead supply chain company in the food industry – and the largest wholesale grocery supply company in the United States; serving 6,500 retailers, chain stores and institutions; from nationally-known retailers such as Target, Stop & Shop, and Safeway to some of America’s most forward-thinking independently owned regional and local supermarkets, C&S Wholesale Grocers provides customers of every size with a full range of products and support services. The company procures customers with over 140,000 different high-quality, low-cost goods and products, sourced from more than 50 high-tech facilities. Additionally, they offer a full range of best-in-class store management services to help customers run businesses efficiently and profitably. For more information, you can visit <https://www.cswg.com/>.

- **Q: Why should I publish and synchronize data with C&S Wholesale Grocers?**

A: C&S Wholesale Grocers announced its GDSN (Global Data Synchronization Network) initiative launch in September 2017. We have now completed the GDSN implementation and are operationally ready to start receiving product information via the GDSN with our supplier community.

Product information received via the GDSN, will be utilized in two phases - Phase 1 Review for completeness and accuracy; Phase 2 Eventually integrate to support our facilities with a fully automated system for case storage, selection, de-palletizing and palletizing of customer orders. This enables optimization of our storage capacity and retrieval processes. Access to the real time accurate product information such as case dimensions is critical to support our warehouse operations. This initiative does not replace our new item or vendor portal processes.

This initiative benefits C&S Wholesale Grocers but at the same time will bring efficiency to your (supplier) processes by significantly reducing the errors caused by human touch. We see your participation and cooperation as of critical importance to eliminate manual data exchange.

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.

- **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 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: 1WorldSync Data Pool.

- **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 C&S Wholesale Grocers GLN is **0868504000403**.

- **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.

- **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.

C&S Wholesale Grocers Data Synchronization Initiative

GENERAL C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS QUESTIONS

- **Q: Why is C&S Wholesale Grocers implementing data synchronization?**

A: C&S Wholesale Grocers is implementing data synchronization to streamline its processes, focusing on improving supply chain efficiencies for C&S Wholesale Grocers and its trading partners. C&S Wholesale Grocers believes data synchronization provides tangible benefits for distributors 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 C&S Wholesale Grocers suppliers required to implement data synchronization via the GDSN?**

A: Yes, C&S Wholesale Grocers expects all suppliers to start synchronizing product data via the GDSN immediately. If you have any questions regarding your participation, please contact C&S Wholesale Grocers at MDMTeam@ES3.com.

DATA POOLS AND SOLUTION PARTNERS

- **Q: What is a GDSN-certified data pool?**

A: See the General Data Synchronization section for answers to general Data Synchronization questions.

- **Q: What/who is 1WorldSync™?**

A: 1WorldSync is a GDSN-certified data pool and is working closely with C&S Wholesale Grocers to implement its data synchronization initiative. C&S Wholesale Grocers uses the 1WorldSync Data Pool Solution for its GDSN services.

A: A partnership initiative of GS1 US and GS1 Germany, 1WorldSync™ is the leading provider of product content solutions, enabling more than 25,000 global companies in over 60 countries to share authentic, trusted content with customers and consumers, empowering intelligent choices for purchases, wellness, and lifestyle decisions. To learn more about 1WorldSync and its services, visit www.1worldsync.com or call +1 866.280.4013.

- **Q: Do I have to sign up with 1WorldSync™?**

A: You need to select a GDSN-certified data pool to get started and 1WorldSync is a GDSN-certified data pool. If you are not currently a member of 1WorldSync, we recommend you get started right away by contacting them at +1 866.280.4013 or businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com to get more information

- **Q: How much does implementing data synchronization cost?**

A: 1WorldSync operates on a cost-recovery model and fees are calculated based on your company's total annual sales. Call +1 866.280.4013 to talk to a 1WorldSync representative regarding the cost.

- **Q: What is a 1WorldSync Solution Partner?**

A: A Solution Partner is a company that enables supply chain functions through the provision of products and services. A *1WorldSync Certified Solution Partner* refers to a company that has been certified by 1WorldSync to connect to the 1WorldSync Data Pool. 1WorldSync customers have the option to choose a certified Solution Partner to assist in managing their data synchronization initiative. For a full list of *1WorldSync Certified Solution Partners*, visit <http://www.1worldsync.com/partner-community/solution-partners/> and search for a Solution Partner that meets your needs.

- **Q: Do I have to use a 1WorldSync Solution Partner?**

A: 1WorldSync provides customers with multiple implementation options to successfully synchronize data with C&S Wholesale Grocers. 1WorldSync 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 1WorldSync system – who should I contact?**

A: For questions associated with GDSN or C&S Wholesale Grocers data synchronization initiative please contact 1WorldSync customer support at technicalsupport@1worldsync.com or +1 866.280.4013.

- **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 C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS

- **Q: I want to synchronize my item information with C&S Wholesale Grocers. Where do I start?**

A: Please see the Steps to Synchronize outlined below or review the C&S Wholesale Grocers Implementation Guide at <http://www.1worldsync.com/customer-page/cswg/>.

Steps to Synchronize

1. Complete the C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS Trading Partner Form found on <http://www.1worldsync.com/customer-page/cswg/>.
2. Review the C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS attribute requirements at <http://www.1worldsync.com/customer-page/cswg/>.
3. C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS will utilize an open US Target Market Subscription. You can immediately publish all items and attributes directly without delay.
4. Have your accurate item data loaded into your home data pool and insure it is ready for publication.
 - a. Contact your data pool for any education you might require to complete this step.
5. If not already a member, join a GDSN data pool such as 1WorldSync.
 - a. You can contact 1WorldSync at 866.280.4013 or businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com to get more information.
6. Publish all items you would like to make available to C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS in production to C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS GLN 0868504000403.
 - a. Publish all levels of product hierarchies for existing items as "Initial Load" and new items as "New".

Note: C&S WHOLESALE GROCERS prefers to receive your full item catalog whenever possible.

- **Q: I completed the C&S Wholesale Grocers Trading Partner Form, does this mean my data has been published?**

A: No, completing the Trading Partner Form is just the first step in publishing your item data. Please refer the "Steps to Synchronize" listed above for your next steps after completing the Trading Partner Form.

Note: If you are unsure of who in your organization can complete the “Steps to Synchronize” in order to publish your item data through the GDSN, please contact 1WorldSync at businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com or 866.280.4013 for assistance.

Q: How does C&S Wholesale Grocers Subscribe?

A: C&S Wholesale Grocers utilizes an open US Target Market Subscription so you can immediately publish all items and attributes directly without delay. Please complete the Trading Partner Form at <http://www.1worldsync.com/customer-page/cswg/> before you publish.

• **Q: Is C&S Wholesale Grocers checking the Initial Load or New Publication Types for incoming Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) publications?**

A: C&S Wholesale Grocers will accept either publication type, please publish all levels of product hierarchies for existing items as “Initial Load” and new items as “New”.

• **Q: When can I expect to see the Catalog Item Confirmation (CIC Authorization)?**

A: After C&S Wholesale Grocers 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?**

7. A: At this time, C&S WHOLESale GROCERS is only utilizing the CIC response of “RECEIVED”.

- RECEIVED: product has been received and has passed C&S WHOLESale GROCERS and GDSN validations. This response will typically be sent within a few hours after receiving the publication.

• **Q: How will C&S Wholesale Grocers handle ongoing Data Synchronization**

A: Suppliers should continue to send changes and correction through GDSN for the items synchronized with C&S Wholesale Grocers.

• **Q: Who can I contact with additional questions regarding data synchronization with C&S Wholesale Grocers?**

A: C&S Wholesale Grocers’ Data Synchronization contact:

- Name: MDM Team/Jeanette Jenna
- Phone: 603-354-6120
- Email: MDMTeam@ES3.com

A: 1WorldSync Data Synchronization contact:

- Phone: 860.280.4013
- Email: businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com; technicalsupport@1worldsync.com