First Databank (FDB) Data Synchronization Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions for FDB Suppliers

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FAQs for FDB Suppliers

INTRODUCTION

This document is a compilation of questions and answers that explain First Databank's interest in Data Synchronization with manufacturers of pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

FIRST DATABANK

- **Q: Who is FDB?**

    o A: FDB is the leading provider of drug product information used worldwide to assist healthcare professionals make accurate medication-related decisions. Our customers include health systems, hospitals, physicians, pharmacies, and government and private payers. We currently provide data for a targeted set of medical devices but are rapidly expanding our coverage to all devices listed with the FDA, (class 1, 2 and 3) for delivery to the same general customer base.

- **Q: Why should I publish and synchronize data with FDB?**

    o A: FDB's customers are also drug and device manufacturer customers, and our database facilitates their access to necessary product information. Because FDB's data is integrated into healthcare workflows for use at the point of care, it enhances the safety and efficiency with which a drug or device is administered. Our customers rely on that data to provide necessary alerts, document relevant identifying information and submit and process claims. The absence of a listing with FDB can consequently cause issues because these utilities are not available, and it is generally recognized that visibility on the FDB database is an important consideration for manufacturers.

GENERAL DATA SYNCHRONIZATION QUESTIONS

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

    o 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

<u>Location information includes:</u>
- 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 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: 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 www.gs1.org/docs/gdsn/support/gdsn_certified_data_pools.pdf

- **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?**

- o 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.

  - o **Note:** FDB's GLN is 0862779000106**.**

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

  - o 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?**

  - o 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?**

  - o 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?**

  - o 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. 1WorldSync). To request a GPC code to be added to standards, work with your data pool (e.g. 1WorldSync) 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.

FDB DATA SYNCHRONIZATION INITIATIVE

General FDB Questions

- **Q: Why is FDB implementing data synchronization?**

    o A: FDB is implementing data synchronization to facilitate the process by which we receive product information from manufacturers. Employment of the GDSN simplifies and standardizes the loading of product data and permits automated updating of a product catalogue. By eliminating manual data entry and delivery, and tapping into a conduit that exists of provide product data to purchasers, the use of GDSN should materially reduce manufacturer effort in data transmission.

- **Q: Are all of FDB suppliers required to implement data synchronization via the GDSN?**

    o A: No, but for the reasons noted above, we believe that the GDSN presents the easiest way to deliver information, not only to FDB but to a manufacturer's customers.

Data Pools and Solution Partners

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

    o A: See Section 2.1 of this document for answers to general Data Synchronization questions

- **Q: What/who is 1WorldSync™?**

    o A: 1WorldSync is the GDSN-certified data pool in which FDB has enrolled for GDSN services.

    o A: To learn more about 1WorldSync and its services, visit www.1worldsync.com or call +1 866.280.4013, Option 1.

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

    o A: To participate in the GDSN you need to enroll in a GDSN-certified data pool. 1WorldSync is one of several GDSN-certified data pools in which you may enroll.

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

    o A: Pricing varies depending on your company size, usage and the data pool you select.

- **Q: If I have questions relating to the 1WorldSync system – who should I contact?**

- o A: For questions associated with GDSN or FDB's data synchronization initiative please contact 1WorldSync Technical Support team at technicalsupport@1worldsync.com or +1 866.280.4013.

- **Q: If I use another and have a question about how to use their system – who should I contact?**

  - o 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 FDB

- **Q: I want to synchronize my item information with FDB. Where do I start?**

  - o A: Please see the FDB Implementation Guide for more details regarding implementation requirements.

- **Q: How does FDB Subscribe?**

  - o A: FDB will create a subscription for your Information Provider GLN + Target Market.

- **Q: Is FDB checking the Initial Load or New Publication Types for incoming Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) publications?**

  - o A: FDB will accept either publication type, New Item or Initial Item Load.

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

  - o A: FDB will return an ACCEPTED CIC within 24 hours of having received your publication.

- **Q: What are the possible responses (states) of a CIC (Authorization) that I can expect to see?**

  - o A: Catalogue Item Confirmations (CICs) responses are:
    - ACCEPT: FDB has received the item publication and will now review the data submitted.
    - SYNCHRONIZED: FDB has validated the product, imported the current product data, and would like to receive future changes and corrections for this product.
    - REVIEW: FDB has found one or more validation issues with this product and would like the supplier to review the product information in question as specified in its CIC response.
    - REJECT: FDB does not see a current or future value of this product to its customers and does not want to receive future updates or corrections for this product.

- **Q: How will FDB handle ongoing Data Synchronization?**

    o A: Suppliers should continue to send changes and correction through GDSN for the items synchronized with FDB.