



# **Kast Distributors Data Synchronization Initiative**

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## **Frequently Asked Questions for Kast Distributors Suppliers**

Version 1



**REVISION HISTORY**

Date	Ver #	Description of Change	Author
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### INTRODUCTION

This document is a compilation of questions, and their associated answers, relative to Kast Distributors Data Synchronization initiative.

### KAST DISTRIBUTORS

- **Q: Who is Kast Distributors?**

- A: Since its founding in December of 1994, Kast Distributors has continually grown its market presence by continuing to increase our product offerings and customer base. Today, Kast Distributors services a broad section of the market place including family restaurants, pizzerias, bars, delis, seasonal restaurants, hospitals and schools. Our product lines include top manufacturers in the industry along with many value priced items and everything in between to suit all of our customers' needs. For more information, you can visit <http://www.KastDistributors.com/>.

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

- A: Kast Distributors recognizes the need to access more complete and accurate data. Through the 1WorldSync/AFS partnership Kast Distributors continues to provide its customers with the most robust, up-to-date, product information available, and drive inefficiencies and related costs out of their own operations. In addition, because the data standards and global data synchronization process adheres to voluntary standards recommended by Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative, Kast Distributors reduces the burden and related costs on its suppliers to provide data in varying formats to its customers.
- Kast Distributors has completed the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN®) implementation and is ready to receive complete and accurate electronic product data from our suppliers through 1WorldSync's data pool.

### 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 Kast Distributors GLN is **0865060000106**.

- **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. 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](http://www.gs1.org/gtinrules). Contact your data pool for more information.

## **KAST DISTRIBUTORS DATA SYNCHRONIZATION INITIATIVE**

### **General Kast Distributors Questions**

- **Q: Why is Kast Distributors implementing data synchronization?**
  - A: Kast Distributors is implementing data synchronization to streamline its processes, focusing on improving supply chain efficiencies for Kast Distributors and its trading partners. Kast Distributors believe 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 Kast Distributors suppliers required to implement data synchronization via the GDSN?**
  - A: At this time Kast Distributors 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 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 Kast Distributors to implement its data synchronization initiative. Kast Distributors uses the 1WorldSync Data Pool Solution for its GDSN services.
  - A: A partnership initiative of GS1 US and GS1 Germany, 1WorldSync supports and works with over 80 recipients and 10,000 suppliers (of all sizes). To learn more about 1WorldSync and its services, visit [www.1worldsync.com](http://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, Option 1.
- **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 866 280 4013 to talk to our 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/web/us/partner-community> 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 Kast Distributors. 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 Kast Distributors data synchronization initiative please contact 1WorldSync customer support at [technicalsupport@1worldsync.com](mailto: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 Kast Distributors**

- **Q: I want to synchronize my item information with Kast Distributors. Where do I start?**
  - A: Please see the Kast Distributors Implementation Guide for more details regarding implementation requirements or contact Kast Distributors Data Synchronization contact by calling.
    - Name: Andrew Kurth
    - Email: [AndrewK@afsi.com](mailto:AndrewK@afsi.com)
- **Q: How does Kast Distributors Subscribe?**

- A: Kast Distributors will create a subscription for your information provider GLN/Target Market U.S.
- **Q: Is Kast Distributors checking the Initial Load or New Publication Types for incoming Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) publications?**
  - A: Kast Distributors will accept either publication type, New Item or Initial Item Load.
- **Q: When can I expect to see the Catalog Item Confirmation (CIC Authorization)?**
  - A: After Kast Distributors 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: Kast Distributors will use the Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC) message as follows:
    - A CIC with the state of "ACCEPTED" will be sent after Kast successfully receives the supplier data
    - A CIC with the state of "SYNCHRONIZED" will be sent when Kast synchronizes the data into their ERP system
  - If you receive "REVIEW" or "REJECTED" status, determine the cause of error and next step/resolution within the CIC message
- **Q: How will Kast Distributors handle ongoing Data Synchronization?**
  - A: Suppliers should continue to send changes and correction through GDSN for the items synchronized with Kast Distributors.