How UNSPSC Differs from GPC

UNSPSC and GS1 GPC are both classification standards (or systems), but as the following table explains, the business purpose for each are different. There are no correlations among the structure and/or content of UNSPSC and GPC, and GS1 does not provide mapping tables between the Codesets.

Classification	UNSPSC	GPC
Main Business Objectives	Enables procurement teams to conduct spend intelligence, improve strategic sourcing and monitor spending limits of authorized commodities. UNSPSC is multi-sector, spanning all industries worldwide.	Supports buying programs by allowing buyers to pre-select groups of applicable products; enables manufacturers to categorize trade item attributes for catalogues; serves as the mandated category classification methodology for GS1 GDSN®. GPC is limited to specific industries and sectors, such as apparel, consumer goods, foodservice, health care and general merchandise.
Structure	There are four levels: Segment, Family, Class, and Commodity; each level contains a two-character numerical value and a textual description. Codes can be embedded into purchasing systems for purchase orders, invoices, electronic documents, etc., to assist employees throughout the company to find and purchase supplies and, for themselves, to analyze the supplies expenditures.	The GPC schema provides an optional four-tier hierarchy; segment, family, class and brick. Each brick may be assigned one or more attributes; in turn each brick attribute has a set of associated mutually-exclusive brick attribute values; the brick attribute can be defined as a particular product detail. For example, the brick can specify whether milk contains animal milk (cow, goat, etc.) or non-animal milk (soy, rice, etc.).