



●● A decision is made

GS1 has made the decision to align the GPC and the UNSPSC, by integrating the GPC "Brick" structure into the UNSPSC "Commodity" level. The UNSPSC hierarchy will serve as the primary basis, with GPC providing granularity underneath it with the help of Brick Attributes and Brick Attribute Values. The aligned duo of systems will be maintained by GS1.

●● Why align?

GS1 is dedicated to global standards. The integration of the two classification systems will enable the development of the GS1 classification strategy such that embraces the need for interoperability; one that is sustainable, clearly communicated, and supported with education.

●● About the two systems

GPC has well-proven, robust business rules enabling global search and reference, category analysis and global data synchronisation. 36 segments are supported in GPC. Its development is managed through the GS1 Global Standard Management Process (GSMP). It has support from GCI companies, the GS1 community, solution providers, data pools and the Global Registry.

UNSPSC is a hierarchical classification with five levels, covering 55 segments, including products and services. It is a globally recognised brand. It has traditionally been used for company-wide visibility of spend analysis, cost-effective procurement optimization, and exploitation of electronic commerce capabilities.

Benefits for all involved ●●

Alignment will provide **benefits for all parties using either system today.**

Retailers and manufacturers, for example, will be able to:

- ✓ **Eliminate** redundant activities and improve data accuracy of item set up and data integrity
- ✓ **Further improve** their spend visibility and analysis thanks to greater granularity for "drill-down" and "roll-up"
- ✓ **Optimise** cost-effective procurement and strategic sourcing
- ✓ **Improve** decision making with better statistics and reporting
- ✓ **Interoperate** their products to existing multiple internal and external classification systems

GDSN Community Members can:

- ✓ Use a **broader** GS1 global standard way to communicate accurate product information between trading partners regionally and across industries
- ✓ Facilitate electronic commerce by supporting the publish, subscribe, validation and search **functionalities**
- ✓ Engage **new Industries**, such as healthcare

GPC users will be able to:

- ✓ Maintain current and future business classification needs by **preserving** the GPC Brick rules
- ✓ **Link** the upstream and downstream parts of their business
- ✓ Establish **cross-references** with internal product category and brand classifications.



UNSPSC users will be able to:

- ✓ Establish a **collaborative** agreement with a larger user community
- ✓ Be engaged with the **Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN)**
- ✓ **Leverage** the expertise of GPC to improve and maintain the codes
- ✓ Provide users with greater **granularity** ("drill-down") for commodities

GS1 Member Organisations (MOs) will be able to:

- ✓ Provide additional classification-related **value-added services**
- ✓ Extend activities into **new sectors**, such as upstream and services
- ✓ **Support** GS1 catalogue applications
- ✓ Be even **involved** more in GDSN

● ● What will happen?

GPC Bricks will be integrated with the UNSPSC Commodity level, by matching and cross-mapping the two hierarchies. **GPC Brick rules and definitions will be preserved.** Brick Attributes and Brick Attribute Values will be tied to these new Commodities.

Associated technical, business and marketing plans will be developed to support the project.

The project will have several phases:

1. **Gap analysis and integration**, to develop a framework and a conversion table, and identify discrepancies
2. **Discrepancy resolution**
3. **GDSN and MO implementation** of the integrated system
4. **Translation** of the integrated system
5. Creation and distribution of **education & communication materials**

Who's involved?

The GS1 GPC team, will serve as the Segment Manager for GPC within the UNSPSC governance structure. The GPC Business Requirements Group (BRG) remains intact. A team has been built to work on the cross-mapping.

Will GPC users have to change everything? ● ●

No. GPC Users and GDSN Certified Data Pools around the world **will not be subject to major conversion efforts.** There will be a one-to-one mapping for all GPC brick codes to a new UNSPSC Commodity code, along with a long conversion timetable during which both code sets will be maintained.

Timeframe ● ●

Mapping work is beginning in **January 2007.** The alignment project will be completed in **December 2007.**

For more information ● ●

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