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GENERAL MILLS

General Mills Pallet Tag Requirements for Supplier Partners

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Overview

The purpose of this document is to specify minimal pallet labeling requirements for suppliers who send EDI 856 Advanced Shipment Notice to General Mills when shipping against a General Mills Purchase Order.

The EDI 856 will contain details about pallet contents on the shipment. Each pallet on EDI 856 is identified with a unique GS1-128 Serial Shipping Container Code number (SSCC-18). The SSCC-18 pallet ID is 20 digits in length. Each physical pallet on the load must be identified with a barcoded SSCC-18 pallet ID label which matches an SSCC-18 in the EDI 856.

The pallet label should be similar to the pallet labels that General Mills uses, since supplier-generated labels will be used to track pallets in General Mills' warehouse systems. The label used by General Mills is illustrated in Figures 1 and 2.

- The label should contain a barcoded SSCC-18 ID with the human-readable value directly below the barcode.
- The General Mills sample label illustrates the **minimum** size of the label and its contents:
 - Label size: 2-3/8" X 5" with content printed in landscape format.
 - Barcode size: 1-1/2" x 3-7/8" (with sufficient white space on either end of the barcode -- ten times the width of the narrowest bar or at least one-half inch)
 - Human readable font: 6 mm high
- Label must be applied on two adjacent sides of the pallet - with one label facing the un-loader (back of truck)
- Label must be applied **OVER** shrink wrap or any other form of wrap.
- See the Glossary section for more information about the SSCC-18 and the GS1 Company Prefix. Suppliers should use their own Company Prefix and manage their own serial sequence of pallet identifiers within that Company Prefix.
- The SSCC-18 label is not intended to replace or cancel other General Mills Supplier labeling requirements that apply to the type of material you supply. If you have questions about other requirements, feel free to raise them with your General Mills contacts.

Pallet Label Samples



Figure 1. Pallet or tote label with SSCC-18 unique pallet identifier



Figure 2. Pallet or tote label with SSCC-18 unique pallet identifier

Glossary

SSCC-18 Pallet ID

The unique standard GS1-128 identifier for a pallet or tote (20-digits of data in the barcode with the same information printed in human-readable form below the barcode). See this link to the GS1 US website for detailed descriptions of the Company Prefix and the SSCC.

http://barcodes.gs1us.org/dnn_bcec/tabid/81/Default.aspx

Application Identifier (two digits)

The GS1 standard Application Identifier for shipping containers (SSCC-18) is “00” (double zero). In the human-readable value beneath the barcode, the Application Identifier should be in parentheses.

Extension Digit (one digit)

Previously called “packaging type,” but now available for companies to assign, e.g., to manage multiple ranges of Serial Reference numbers.

GS1 Company Prefix (seven digits or more)

Identifies the company that manufactured the material. Your company should purchase its own Company Prefix from GS1. The General Mills example uses a company prefix of “0016000”, but your company’s Prefix may be longer. The primary purpose of the company prefix is to ensure the uniqueness of the SSCC-18 pallet ID world-wide.

Serial Reference (nine digits or less, depending on the size of Company Prefix)

Distinguishes one pallet from another; a sequence number which must be unique within GS1 company code. Each company must manage its own Serial sequences within its Company Prefix. General Mills requires that SSCC-18 on pallets or containers received should be unique (not be reused) for a **MINIMUM of three years** to allow a history of each pallet to be tracked.

Check Digit (one digit)

The last digit is calculated using the SSCC-18 standard. The check digit is calculated from the other 17 digits of the SSCC-18 (excluding the “00” Application Identifier). See the following link for an on-line check digit calculator and a description of the calculation:

http://barcodes.gs1us.org/dnn_bcec/Solutions/CheckDigitCalculator/tabid/85/Default.aspx

Example: For SSCC-18 pallet ID “(00) 1 0016000 105127318 2”:

(00)	is the Application Identifier
1	is the Extension Digit
0016000	is the General Mills GS1 Company Prefix
105127318	is the Serial Reference number assigned to the pallet or tote
2	is the Check Digit calculated from Extension Digit + GS1 Company Prefix + Serial Reference

References

Barcode Standards

GS1 US (formerly the Uniform Code Council or UCC) has developed worldwide, multi-industry standards for product identification. See <http://www.uc-council.org/> for further information.