DeCA Data Synchronization Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions for DeCA Suppliers

February 2013

FAQs for DeCA Suppliers

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Ver #	Description of Change	Author
2/22/2013	1	Initial creation of document	C. Macias
5/2/2014	2	Updated General Data Synchronization initiative section	P.Patel

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FAQs for DeCA Suppliers

INTRODUCTION

This document is a compilation of questions, and their associated answers, relative to DeCA's Data Synchronization initiative. It pertains to all suppliers that want to synchronize data with DeCA.

ABOUT DECA

- **Q: Who is DeCA?**

  - o   A: The Defense Commissary Agency, which is headquartered at Fort Lee, VA., operates a worldwide chain of commissaries providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families in a safe and secure shopping environment. Authorized patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers the costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings that amount to thousands of dollars annually when shopping regularly at a commissary. A core military family support element, and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

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

  - o   A: DeCA recognizes the need to access more complete and accurate data through the GDSN so that it 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, reduces the burden and related costs on its suppliers to provide data in varying formats to its customers.
  - o   DeCA has completed the GDS implementation and is ready to receive complete and accurate electronic product data from our suppliers through the 1WorldSync data pool.
  - o   **Effective March 31, 2014, DeCA has made Global Data Synchronization mandatory for all national items.** Refer to DeCA Notice to the Trade (NTT) 14-06 available on the DeCA public website [here](#), that announced the mandate to synchronize product data via the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN®)

o DeCA prefers to receive item information directly from manufacturer/brand owners. Distributors/brokers are strongly recommended to work with manufacturer/brand owners they represent to follow DeCA's Global Data Synchronization process.

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

  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®)?**

  o 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.

  o 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.
  - **Note:**
    - 1WorldSync is a GDSN-certified data pool and has partnered with DeCA to implement its data synchronization initiative.

- **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.

- o **Note:** DeCA's Production GLN is **1100001008841**.

- **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.

DECA DATA SYNCHRONIZATION INITIATIVE

GENERAL DeCA Questions

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

    o A: DeCA is implementing data synchronization to streamline its processes, focusing on improving supply chain efficiencies for DeCA and its trading partners. DeCA believes data synchronization provides tangible benefits for retailers 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 DeCA's suppliers required to implement data synchronization via the GDSN?**

    o A: Yes. Effective March 31, 2014, DeCA has made Global Data Synchronization mandatory for all national items.
    ☐ New suppliers to DeCA must get their items approved first by the buyer/category manager. Once approved, initiate the data synchronization process with DeCA on new items.
    o Refer to the DeCA Implementation Guide and Steps to Sync for additional information. These documents are available on www.1worldsync.com/deca

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 a GDSN-certified data pool and is working closely with DeCA to implement its data synchronization initiative. DeCA uses the 1WorldSync Data Pool Solution for its GDSN services.

    o   A: 1WorldSync supports and works with over 80 data recipients and 7,000 suppliers (of all sizes). To learn more about 1WorldSync and its services, visit www.1WorldSync.com or contact businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com or call +1 866.280.4013.

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

    o   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 businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com or +1 866.280.4013

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

    o   A: 1WorldSync operates on a cost-recovery model and fees are calculated based on your company's total annual sales. Please contact 1WorldSync to understand the cost of joining the data pool. 1WorldSync can be contacted at businessdevelopment@1worldsync.com or +1 866.280.4013

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- **Q: What is a 1WorldSync Solution Partner?**

    o   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://pdm.1sync.org/about-us/solution-partners and search for a Solution Partner that meets your needs.

- **Q: Do I have to use a 1WorldSync Solution Partner?**

    o   A: 1WorldSync provides customers with multiple implementation options to successfully synchronize data with DeCA. 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?**

    o   A: For questions associated with GDSN or DeCA's data synchronization initiative please contact 1WorldSync Technical support at 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?**

    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 DeCA

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

  - o A: Please see the DeCA Implementation Guide available at www.1worldsync.com/deca for more details regarding implementation requirements or contact DeCA's Primary Data Synchronization contact via email at gds@deca.mil.

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

  - o A: DeCA will create a subscription based on Information Provider Global Location Number (GLN), and Target Market (US).

- **Q: How will I know what items to publish to DeCA?**

  - o A. DeCA will email the supplier's primary global data sync contact with a list of items to publish as Initial Loads. You must publish at the orderable level for these items. **Note**: The orderable unit GTIN represents what is traditionally called the case GTIN. This would also represent the shipper and pallet/display module GTIN.

- **Q: Can I publish all my items to DeCA, even what they do not carry?**
  - o A. Yes, for potential future synchronization, you may publish all of your items to DeCA.

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

  - o A: DeCA will accept either publication type, New Item or Initial Item Load. Please consult the DeCA Implementation Guide available at www.1worldsync.com/deca for more details.

- **Q: Is the New Item Introduction process changing for DeCA?**

  - o A. Yes, the New Item Introduction process will be changing. Please see the DeCA Implementation Guide available at www.1worldsync.com/deca for more details on synchronizing your new items to DeCA.

- **Q: What is DeCA's Production GLN?**

  - o A. DeCA's Production GLN is: 1100001008841.

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

    o A: Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC) messages will be generated shortly after DeCA receives the published items. The DeCA Implementation Guide available at www.1worldsync.com/deca outlines the CIC responses DeCA will be generating.

- **Q: What is the process for withdrawing or deleting publications?**

    o A. When withdrawing publications sent to DeCA, suppliers must contact the appropriate category buyer to make DeCA aware of these withdrawals and the reason for withdrawing the hierarchy from data synchronization.

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

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