Meijer's Data Synchronization Initiative

Frequently Asked Questions for Meijer Suppliers

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FAQ for Meijer Suppliers

1   BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This document is a compilation of frequently asked questions for Meijer suppliers, and their associated answers, relative to Meijer's data synchronization initiative.

2   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:
- Product attributes controlled by the supplier, e.g., Global Trade Item Number, 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 product 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?
- o A: There are several benefits, including:
  - Allows real-time product maintenance for specific fields
  - Ensures dimensions are correct and stored at the each, case, warehouse pack, and pallet levels
  - Standardized method of communication
  - Increased supply chain efficiency!

Q: What is a data pool? What is a GDSN-certified data pool?
- o 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.

- o 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.

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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 https://www.gs1.org/services/gdsn/certified-data-pools

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.

Q: What 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. More information on GTINs can be found at: http://www.gs1.org/barcodes/technical/idkeys/gtin

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 provider. To request a GPC code to be added to standards, work with your data pool provider to submit a change request.

3   MEIJER'S DATA SYNCHRONIZATION INITIATIVE

3.1 General Meijer Questions

Q: Why is Meijer implementing data synchronization?
- o   A: To increase supply chain efficiencies. Review more on our data synchronization initiative by visiting the Meijer customer page at 1WorldSync.com by clicking the link below:
  https://www.1worldsync.com/community/customers/meijer/

Q: How do I implement with Meijer?
- o   A: Review the Meijer implementation guide available on the Meijer customer page at 1WorldSync.com by clicking the link below:
  https://www.1worldsync.com/community/customers/meijer/

Q: Are all of Meijer's suppliers required to implement data synchronization via the GDSN?
- o   A: The Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) is Meijer's preferred method for receiving product content. Meijer will receive product data via the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) that will flow into Meijer's Product Entry Form Application on the Meijer VendorNet. This will allow Meijer to receive standard, validated vendor data while enabling Meijer's vendors to leverage their existing investment in GDSN.

Q: Do Direct Store Delivery (DSD) suppliers need to implement data synchronization?
- o   A: Yes, as we are not excluding any vendors.

Q: Do Distributors need to implement data synchronization?
- o   A: If your product is supplied by a manufacture that is supplying other product to Meijer, you will need to work with them as to who will be supplying both the product information and case pack information for the product you supply.
- o   The Brand Owner GLN will be a required field

Q: Are manufacturers/suppliers that sell to a distributor that sell to Meijer required to implement data synchronization?
- o   A: Based on vendor analysis and relationship between manufacturer and distributor, this will determine if the manufacture or distributor will publish to Meijer.

Q: How does Meijer Subscribe?
- o   A: Meijer subscribes by your information provider GLN. To begin the subscription process, complete the Meijer Trading Partner form at the link below:
  https://www.1worldsync.com/meijer-trading-partner-form/?cname=Meijer&add0=tkhan%401worldsync.com

Q: Is data synchronization only for existing products that Meijer carries, or should I publish all my products?
- o   A: Meijer will only accept product that they will or plan to carry.

Q: Should I publish my shippers (multiple UPC's, modules)?
  o A: Yes

Q: Should I publish my mixed pallets?
  o A: Yes

Q: If I supply Meijer Own Brand (private label) products for Meijer, do I use data synchronization?
  o A: Yes, as we are not excluding any vendors.

Q: I have successfully published my products and they do not show up as synchronized with Meijer. What are my next steps?
  o A: Review CIC messages, if it is in the ACCEPT status it is on the Meijer side to review. Contact meijervendor@meijer.com . See below response time for review messages.

Q: When can I expect to see the Catalog Item Confirmation (CIC Authorization) in my data pool provider solution?
  o A: For Accept or Reject anticipate a 24 hours response time
  o A: For Initial Load anticipate a 3 weeks response time before receiving a review or synchronized message.
  o A: For New or Changes, anticipate a 5-business day response time

Q: Is Meijer checking the Initial Load or New Publication Types for incoming Catalogue Item Notification (CIN) publications?
  o A: Yes

Q: What attributes do I need to populate to successfully synchronize my data with Meijer?
  o A: For a complete listing of the attributes you will need to synchronize with Meijer, please refer to the Meijer Implementation Guide available at https://www.1worldsync.com/community/customers/meijer/

Q: What are your imaging requirements?
  o A: For a complete listing of imaging requirements please refer to Meijer Implementation Guide and the Digital Product Content Requirements document. Both are available at the Meijer customer page at 1WorldSync.com by clicking the link below:
     https://www.1worldsync.com/community/customers/meijer/

3.2 Data Pools and Solution Partners

Q: What is a GDSN-certified data pool?
- o A: See Section 2 of this document for answers to general Data Synchronization questions

Q: What/who is 1WorldSync?

- o A: 1WorldSync is the leading provider of product content solutions, enabling more than 13,000 global companies in over 60 countries to share authentic, trusted content with customers and consumers, empowering intelligent choices for purchases, wellness, and lifestyle decisions.
To learn more about 1WorldSunc and its services, visit http://www.1WorldSync.com or call +1 866.280.4013, Option 1.

Q: Do I have to sign up with 1WorldSync?
- o A: No. You can choose to sign up with any GDSN-certified data pool of your choice.

Q: How do I sign up with a data pool?
- o A: You must choose a data pool that best fits your company's needs and follow its procedures. Visit the GS1 website at https://www.gs1.org/services/gdsn/certified-data-pools to obtain a list of certified data pools.

Q: How much does implementing data synchronization cost?
- o A: The cost will depend on the data pool your company chooses to work with. For example, 1WorldSync operates on a cost-recovery model and fees are calculated based on your company's total annual sales. Visit https://store.1worldsync.com or call 866-280-4013 for more details

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 *1WorlSync 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 https://www.1worldsync.com/community/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 Meijer. 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: 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 with Meijer.

Q: How do I load data into a data pool?

- o A: You will have to follow the procedures provided by the data pool you have chosen to work with. Please contact your specific data pool for any additional support with your implementation. 1WorldSync subscribers can contact them for technical assistance at 1-866-280-4013 (Option #2) or technicalsupport@1worldsync.com

Q: What is a CIC and how do I find this message?

- o A: CIC is a Catalogue Item Confirmation message that communicates between the data pool with the status of product information.
To find a CIC message, contact your data pool provider.

REVISION HISTORY

Date	Ver #	Description of Change	Author
8/9/2011	.1	Initial document	Vanessa Frosch
2/14/2012	.2	Updated	Sandi Ragan
2/17/2012	.3	Updated with feedback from Team	Sandi Ragan
4/3/2012	.4	Updated with feedback from Team	Sandi Ragan
5/11/12	.5	Publish	Sandi Ragan
1/29/2020	.6	Updated	Sheri Milstead