



Guide to Information Standards

Numbering, Bar Coding and eMessaging for the Australian Red Meat Industry

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Use of this publication

Australia has well established traceability and product integrity systems. In addition the GS1 System is being adopted on a voluntary basis by the Australian red meat industry. The Australian Meat Industry and Language Standards Committee has endorsed this Guide to Information Standards as the solution for the Australian red meat industry to adopt for numbering, bar coding and electronic messaging.

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GS1 Cost Benefit Analysis

About this document

This information document describes numbering, bar coding and electronic messaging (eMessaging) standards for specific red meat supply chain activities, including processes such as carton labelling, carcass ticketing and pallet labelling as well as electronic messaging for National Vendor Declarations (eDEC) and Meat Transfer Certificates (eMTC). The document also details some project summary information for reference purposes.

A number of fact sheets have been developed to support this document. These are:

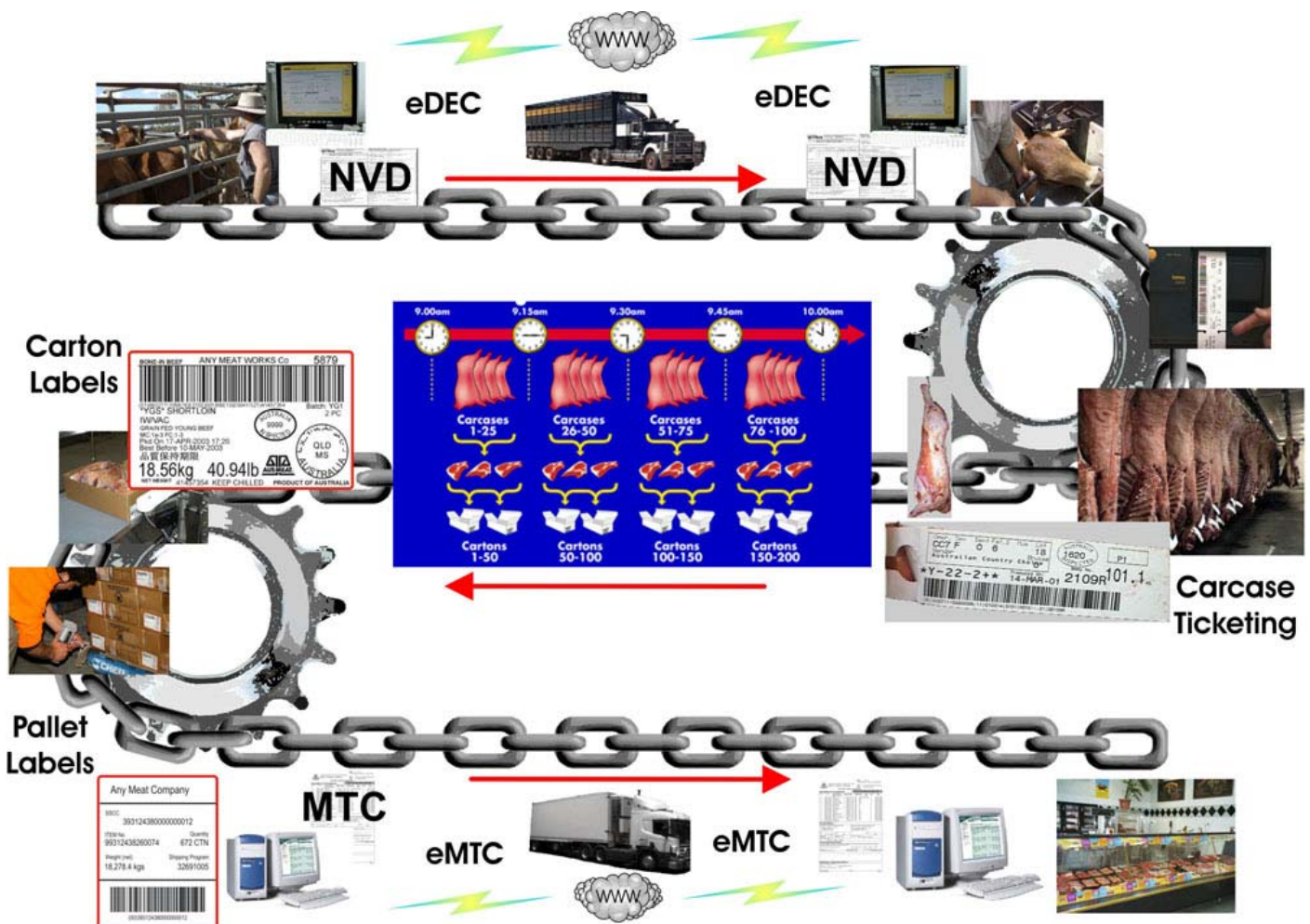
Technical

- Numbering and bar coding for carcass tickets.
- Numbering and bar coding for carton labels for carton and bulk non-retail red meat products.
- Numbering and bar coding for pallet labels for non-retail red meat products.
- Electronic messaging for cattle and sheep NVDs (eDEC).
- Electronic messaging for Meat Transfer Certificates MTCs (eMTC).
- (For livestock identification methods refer to the National Livestock Identification Scheme)

Information

- Cost Benefit Analysis

The diagram below shows the red meat supply chain for non-retail trade product and identifies each of the activities that are covered in the Technical Fact Sheets. The diagram shows how the relationship of each of the activities and their respective importance along the supply chain.



All of these documents were developed from global standards for trade and commerce. For more information on these global standards please refer to the ***GS1 Australia User Manual - Numbering and Bar Coding*** or contact GS1 Australia www.gs1au.org.

Acknowledgments

Major contribution has been provided by:

- Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA)
- GS1 Australia
- AUS-MEAT
- AQIS
- AMIC

The Benefits

Standards for numbering, bar coding and eMessaging

The use of global standards for numbering, bar coding and eMessaging offers benefits to all parties in the red meat industry supply chain by reducing costs, saving time, providing traceability and increasing accuracy through management of the entire supply chain.

For all trading partners, benefits include:

- The ability to identify goods and shipments quickly and accurately
- Track forward and trace back of products
- Faster delivery of goods
- Fewer handling and shipping errors
- Better inventory management and reduced inventory holdings
- Reduction of order and replenishment times

For Livestock Production (breeding, backgrounding and finishing), benefits include:

- The ability to identify livestock (mobs and individuals) and consignments quickly and accurately (refer to NLIS)
- Electronic NVD, Waybills and other regulatory and market access forms (eDEC)
- Producer feedback matched to properties, mob and even individual animals

For Domestic Processing (slaughter, boning, cold store, value adding, retail ready, by-product/ co-products) benefits include:

- The ability to identify carcasses, cartons, bulk packs, pallets and shipments quickly and accurately
- Compliance with customer (retail or export) requirements for bar coding
- Track forward and trace back from slaughter to retail shelf
- Integration with the National Livestock Identification Scheme (NLIS)
- Ability for using eMessaging for NVDs, Waybills, Meat Transfer Certificates, producer feedback
- Compliance with customer traceability requirements

Meat Industry Demonstrations

GS1/NLIS integration project

Demonstration project - Electronic Livestock Identification (NLIS), Data Capture, Processing and eMessaging

The demonstration trial that was conducted with Australian Country Choice (ACC) Cannon Hill slaughter facility and the Brisbane Valley Feedlot was based on testing three primary areas of electronic information management, these were:

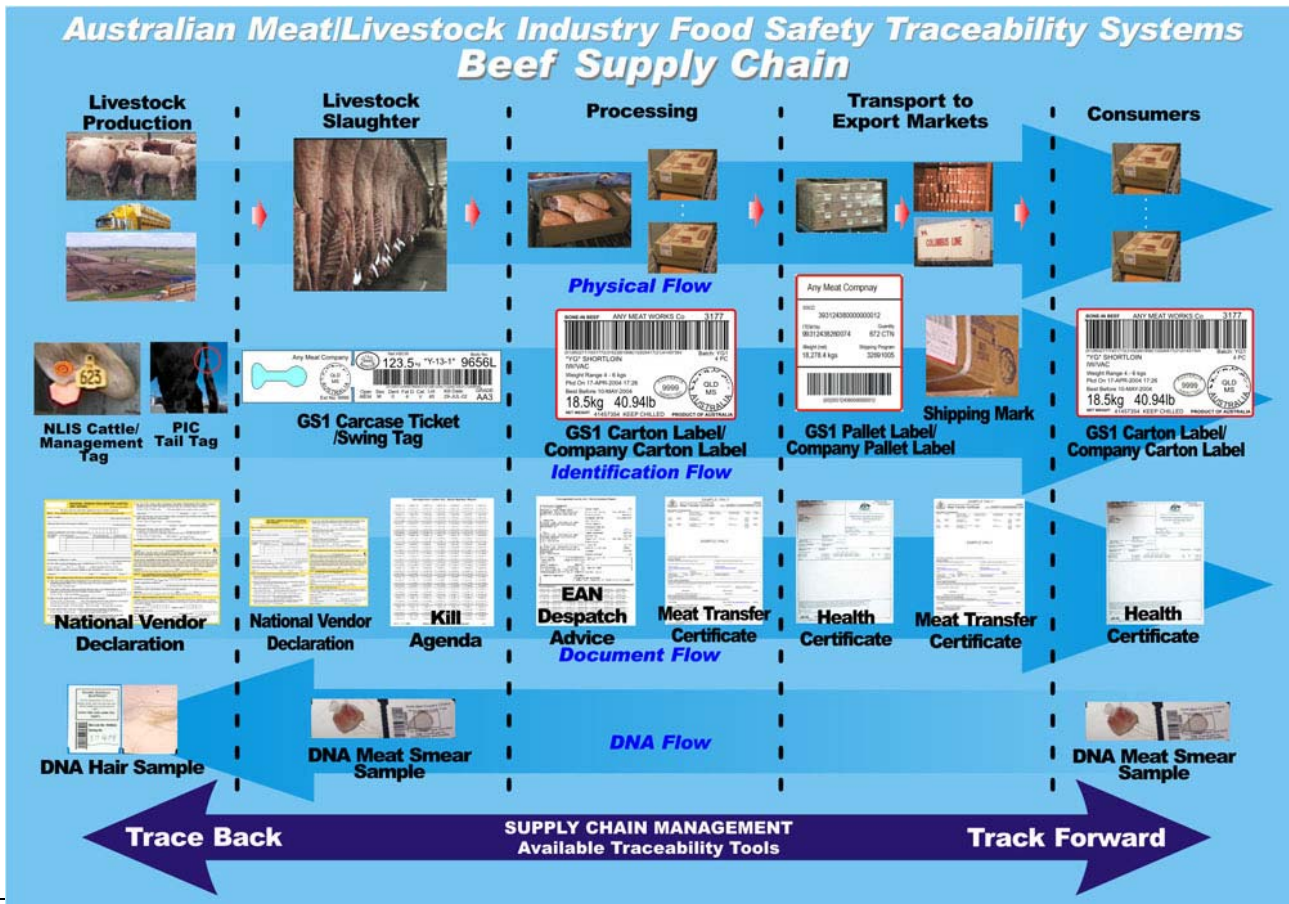
- Capture and record information on mob and consignments which included individual livestock identification by use of NLIS devices in the feedlot based on GS1 numbering and eMessaging standards
- Electronic Messaging to the NLIS database of regulatory data based on GS1 eMessaging standards
- Electronic Messaging between the Feedlot and ACC head Office of commercial information based on GS1 numbering and eMessaging standards

Benefits to Industry

The successful demonstration of the linkage of carcasse and carton product back to live animal history from the NLIS database

The movement up and down the supply chain of critical commercial information based on GS1 numbering and eMessaging standards.

Validation audit conducted by matching DNA samples collected from retail product from a Coles Supermarket back to hair samples collected at induction at the Feedlot.



Meat Industry Demonstrations

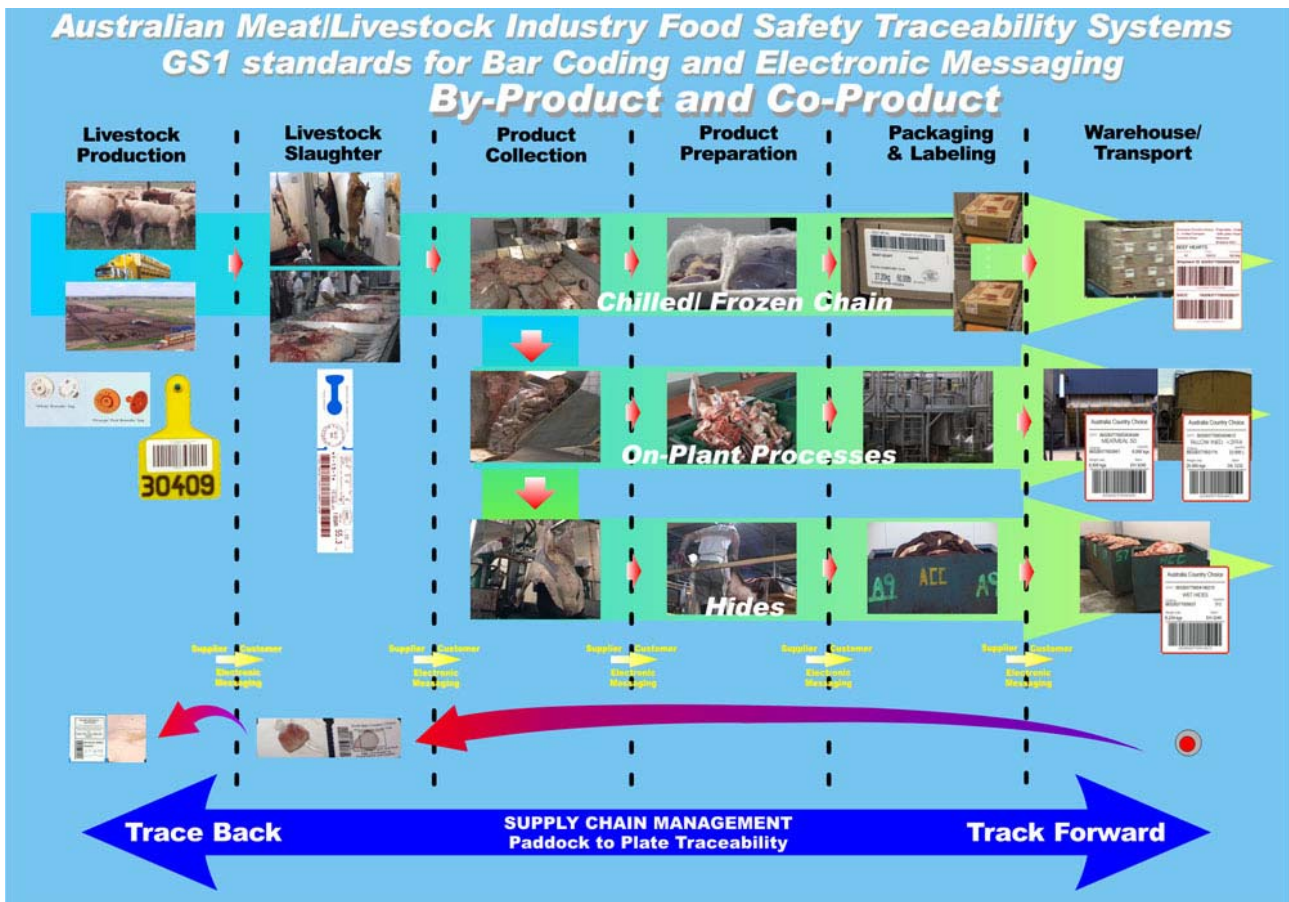
By-products and co-products project

Demonstration project for traceability of by-products and co-products using the GS1 System

The demonstration project objective was to show the ability to trace co-products and by-products back to the carcasses and even individual livestock using the GS1 System. Linkages needed to be established through the slaughter, boning and subsequent on-plant processes. The optimum level of linkage was determined by a combination of market requirements, practical limitations and cost considerations. The principles of the GS1 System of products having a packaging level, a batch size and a labelling method work with by-products and co-products.

Benefits to Industry

- The ability to directly link live animals with Foetal Blood and Organic Whole Blood through the GS1 System.
- The ability to link individual carcasses that comprised batches of tallow, meat meal and blood meal.
- The use of Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) and serial numbers to ensure that the blood can be globally identified and traced back to the live animal.
- Hides have the ability to be uniquely linked to an individual carcase number and live animal identification.
- The use of Serial Shipping Container Codes (SSCCs) for each hide can ensure that the hide can be globally identified.



Meat Industry Demonstrations

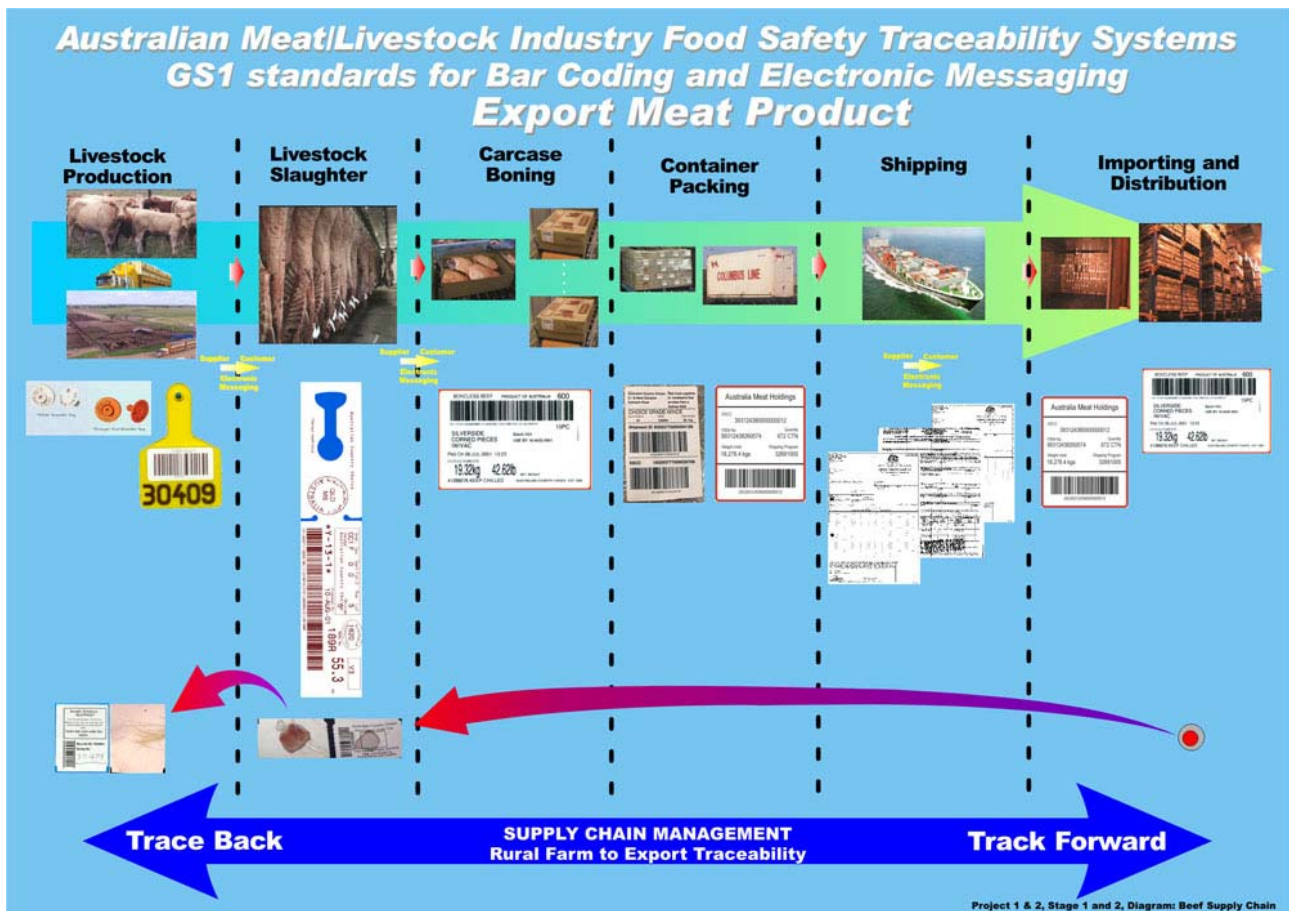
Export project

Demonstration project for simplification and increased efficiency for meat export by use of the GS1 System for bar coding and eMessaging.

The objective was to demonstrate the use of GS1 bar code labelling (with unique numbering per carton) and the use of GS1 eMessaging (EANCOM DESADV message) to absolutely identify and track the shipment and/or each individual carton.

Benefits to Industry

- The reduced costs of exporting carton product yet providing a higher level of traceability and accountability.
- The reduced costs are achieved by the long-term objective of changing from port marks to the globally unique individual carton bar codes.
- Reduction in paper work achieved by using eMessaging for meat transfer certificates and health certificates.
- The ability to track forward and trace back carton product from processing to the final point of use.



Meat Industry Demonstrations

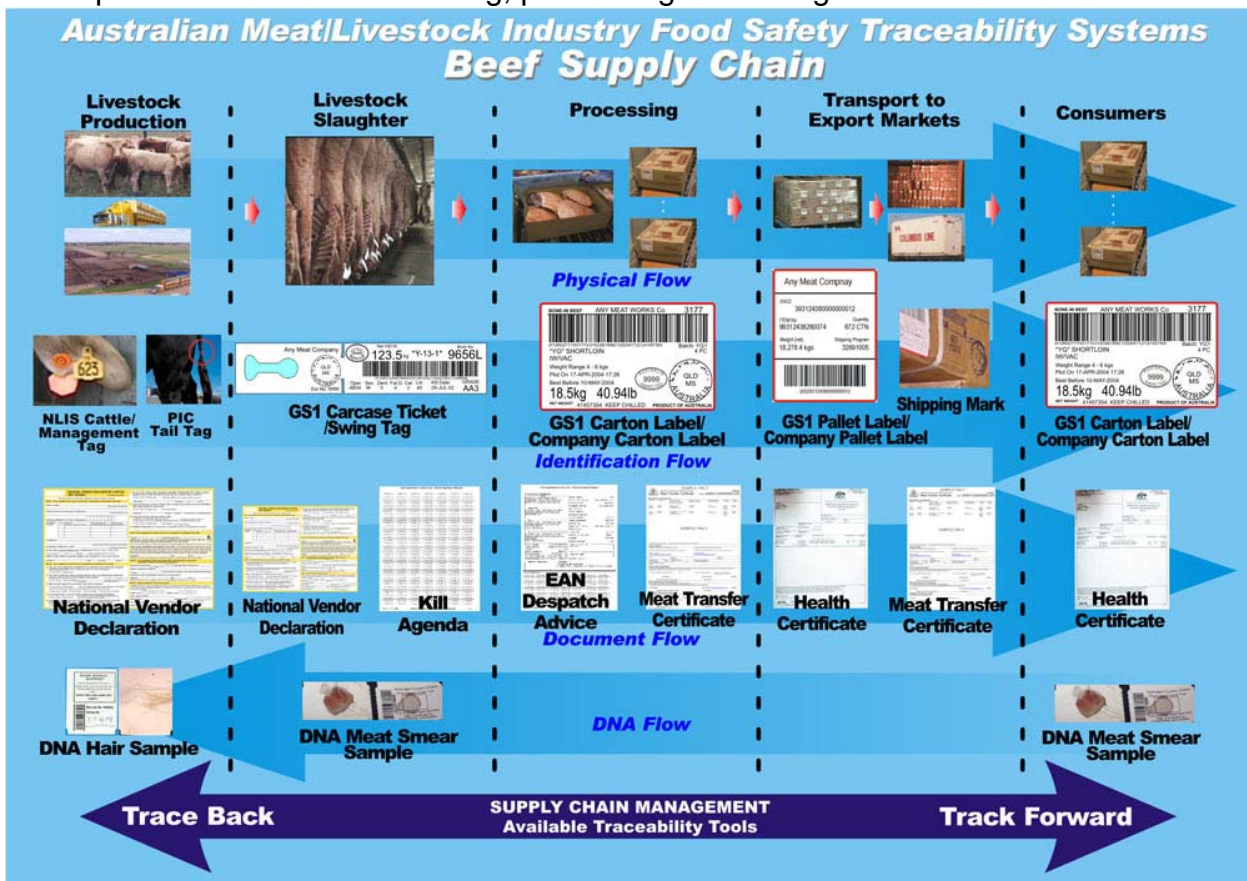
Value added and retail ready project

Demonstration project for traceability for value added and retail ready products from processing facilities to retail shelf, by use of the GS1 System for bar coding and eMessaging.

The domestic trial involved the development of GS1 eMessaging related to carton primal product and value added and retail ready product. The reason that retail ready product was chosen was because of its complexity and difficulty for tracking and tracing through the supply chain. The products that were chosen for the domestic trial were Coles specified products. These products could have been manufactured by a number of different suppliers and as such this created a problem in unique carton serial numbers. The project had to demonstrate how product could be tracked and traced through the supply chain to retail as well as shorter lead-time and increasing efficiency by use of the GS1 System.

Benefits to Industry

- The ability for multiple suppliers to be able to supply product into one logistic system of a major retailer.
- The ability to track and trace product from retail back to all possible carcasses used in the preparation of product.
- Shorter lead-time between order placement and product availability on the retail shelf by use of GS1 eMessaging.
- Increase efficiency in order fulfilment for picking and cross docking.
- Lower operational costs for receiving, processing and fulling orders



Meat Industry Demonstrations

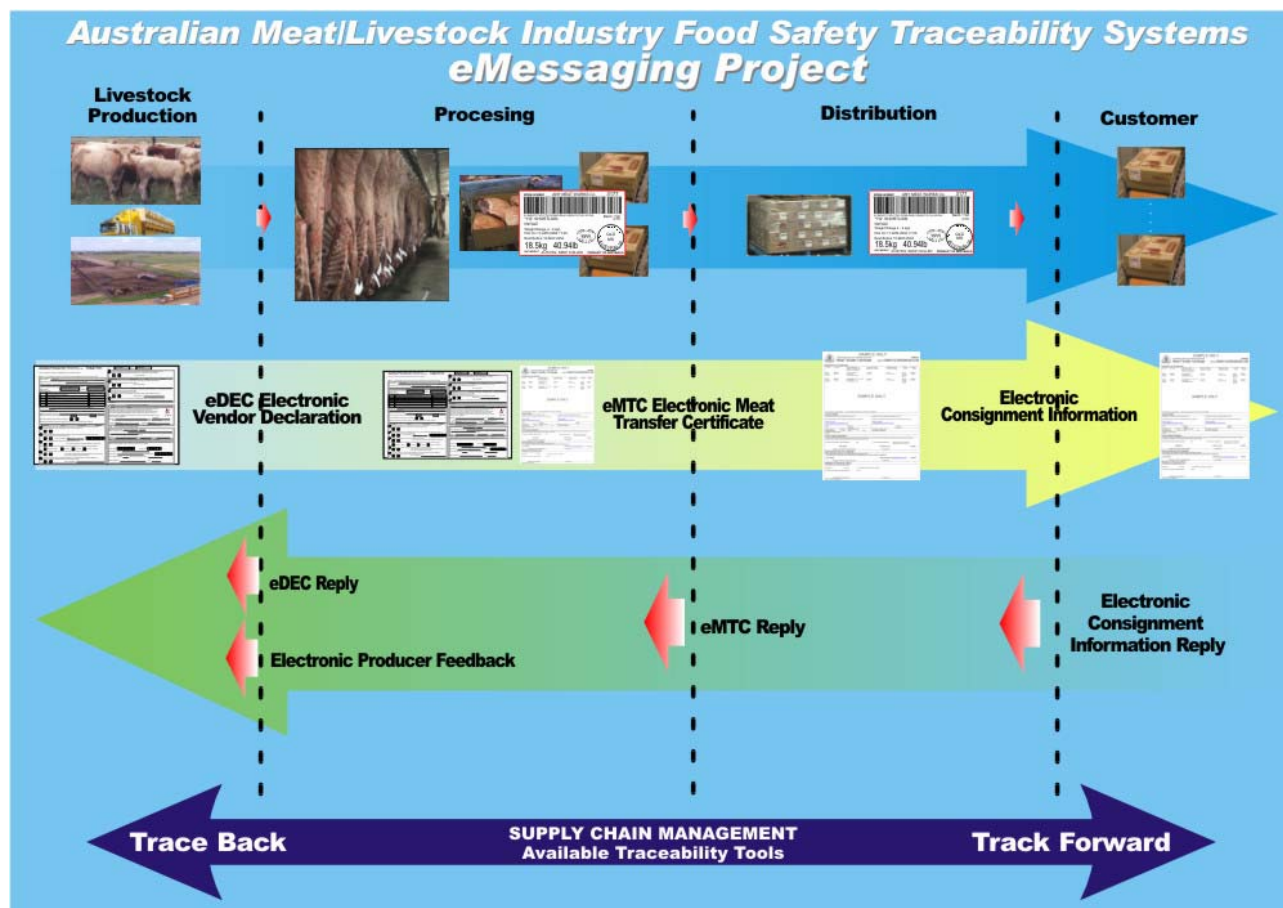
eMessaging project

Demonstration project showing a GS1 compliant e-Business system installed at a meat processing plant and demonstrating the supply chain benefits.

There are significant benefits to the meat industry in moving to an e-Business environment, however there are different coding and communications standards in place between plants and levels of the supply chain. This project demonstrates the implementation of internationally accepted standards and the benefits of a standard system.

Benefits to Industry

- Reduced operating costs by reducing labour and eliminated paper documents
- Improved accuracy and timeliness of data both internally and in its interaction with suppliers and customers
- Based on simple e-mail systems giving it a simple and universal interface while requiring very little bandwidth making suitable for communication with producers on dial-up lines
- Replace the paper based system with a wholly electronic system
- Combining NVD's, MSA Declarations and NFAS Declarations into an electronic version
- Notifying Consignors of Receipt of cattle electronically



The GS1 System

The GS1 System allows continuous improvement in supply chain management practices by providing international standards for item identification, bar coding, data capture, electronic messaging and data synchronisation.

Through the automation of business processes, the GS1 System drives increasingly fast, efficient and accurate flow of information between trading partners, factors that are fundamental to the success of any business.

GS1 numbers and bar codes permit organisations of any size to order, track, trace, deliver and pay for goods across the supply chain, anywhere in the world.

GS1 'openness' ensures worldwide product recognition

Because the GS1 System is a universal global standard, all users follow the same coding rules. As a result, GS1 numbers and bar codes can be recognised by trading partners anywhere in the world. What's more, the numbers issued by GS1 are completely unique, so no product (livestock, carton, carcase, pallet, shipment) can be confused for another.

Where did the GS1 System come from?

The GS1 System was collaboratively developed by EAN International and its partner organisation, the Uniform Code Council (UCC) in the U.S.A.

It is recognised by the International Standards Organisation (ISO), the European Standardisation Committee (CEN) and the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

Today, around 1,000,000 member companies in 145 countries use GS1 Standards as part of their daily business communications, representing over 5 billion scanning transactions a day.

GS1 Australia

GS1 Australia is non-profit organisation that locally administers the global multi-industry system of identification and communication for products, services, assets and locations - the GS1 System.

Components of the GS1 System

There are three distinct components:

- Standard numbering structures for the identification of goods, services, shipments, assets and locations
- Data carriers to represent the identification numbers in machine readable format
- eMessaging standards to transmit the captured data between trading parties

Of these three areas, the key component of the GS1 System is the numbering structure used for identification.



Numbering structures for identification

The main elements of the numbering system covered here are:

- **Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)**
An identification number to identify a trade item, which may be sold at retail Point-of-Sale (POS) and/or which appears in a general distribution (warehouse) environment.
- **Application Identifiers (AIs)**
A method of identifying information about a trade item over and above product identity, such as batch number or production date.
- **Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC)**

For the unique identification of logistic units.

Data Carriers (Bar Codes)

The GS1 unique numbers are represented in data carriers that enable automatic capture of the data. The red meat industry has determined that the GS1-128 Bar Code is to be used for carcass ticketing, carton labels and pallet labels. This allows attribute data as well as product identification to be encoded.

Alternate GS1 Data Carriers such as GS1 Data Bar (formerly RSS) and radio frequency identification (RFID) tags are also available for use.

Refer to the applicable Technical Fact Sheets for detail.

eMessaging

The terms electronic data exchange (EDI) and eMessaging, used within the context of this document, apply to the various syntax-based standards available to transact commercial documents electronically. The types of documents applicable for the meat industry include National Vendor Declarations, Market Vendor Declarations (MSA, NFAS), Meat Transfer Certificates, Health Certificates as well as consignment and transport information.

In the traditional sense, EDI (or Electronic Data Interchange) can be conceptualised as paperless trading. A common and useful definition for EDI is:

"the transfer of structured data, by agreed message standards, from one computer application to another by electronic means and with a minimum of human intervention."

The electronic exchange of data (or eMessaging) provides trading partners with an efficient business tool for the automatic transmission of commercial data. Companies do not need to worry about different and/or incompatible computer systems.

Refer to the applicable Technical Fact Sheets for detail.

Cartons and Carcasses

GS1 Australia allocates a parcel of numbers to member companies. These numbers include a GS1 Company Prefix to identify the company and a range of numbers to identify products (which members themselves allocate sequentially), followed by a Check Digit which is mathematically calculated to verify that the details of the GS1 number (GTIN) are correct.

Introduction

Trade items consisting of a single unit are identified with a unique Global Trade Item Number (GTIN). Standard groupings of identical or different units are identified with a separate, unique Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs).

There are two main types of trade items identified in this document - retail trade items and non-retail trade items.

- A retail trade item is any item that is intended to be sold to the final consumer through retail POS
- A non-retail trade item is any item that is traded between companies and not primarily intended for sale to consumers at retail POS

The reason for this distinction is the differing requirements for retail and non-retail numbers and bar codes.

Re-using numbers

A deleted Global Trade Item Numbers (GTINs) must not be re-used for a minimum of four years after the date a product was last issued into the marketplace. When re-issuing GTINs, give consideration to the product type and its possible life in the market. It may be advisable for some trade items to never re-issue GTINs.

Creating a GTIN-14

The GTIN-14 number is created by the company applying the bar code. A variable weight indicator of 9 is used on carcasses and carton bar codes and must be completed with the measure information.

Attribute Information

for cartons and carcasses

Attribute information is any variable information that must be represented in a bar code over and above the product identification numbers. Attribute information includes Use By Dates, Batch Numbers and Serial Numbers and are encoded into a GS1-128 Bar Code.

Application Identifiers (AIs)

The GS1 System has hundreds of types of Application Identifiers to enable attribute information about items and shipments using a standard format, which leads to more efficient processes for trading partners participating in the transport and distribution chain. All parties handling those goods at any stage of the supply chain can access information about goods from the same bar code, eliminating the need to re-label goods or separately transmit information. Please refer to the **GS1 Australia User Manual - Numbering and Bar Coding** for the complete Application Identifiers list.

Structure of Application Identifiers

AIs are between two to four digits long and precede the accompanying data. Due to the dynamic nature of the Application Identifier information, bar codes usually cannot be pre-printed, but must be applied 'live' or on-line at the production site or warehouse.

The option of Concatenation

Application Identifiers allow bar code 'Concatenation', which literally means 'linking together'. In this process several bar codes can be linked into a single bar code, while allowing each individual data group to remain identified by its Application Identifier.

International compatibility

Application Identifiers and GS1-128 Bar Codes are internationally compatible throughout GS1 Global (which now includes the UCC). As a result, they can communicate information within a single company, between companies within an industry and across the globe.

Refer to the applicable Technical Fact Sheets for detail.

Examples

for cartons and carcasses

Examples of Attribute Information as applied to carton labels and carcass tickets:

Carton Label (BONELESS BEEF):

- Company:** ANY MEAT WORKS Co, LONG FLAT ROAD, ANYTOWN NSW
- Product:** BONELESS BEEF, PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA, *YG* STRIPLOIN
- Weight:** WEIGHT RANGE 4kg - 5kg
- Quantity:** 6 PC
- Storage:** KEEP REFRIGERATED
- Product Code:** 32307
- Company Batch Number:** 4487
- Carton Serial Number (same as Bar Code):** (01) 9 932711103176 6 (3101) 000262 (13) 050417 (21) 41457354
- PKD ON:** 17-APR-2005 17:26
- BEST BEFORE:** 29-MAY-2005
- Weights:** 26.2kg, 57.8lb
- Inspection:** QLD MS, AUSTRALIA 9999 INSPECTED, EST. NO. 9999

Carcass Ticket:

- Company:** Any Meat Company, ANY Road, Any state
- Product:** PRODUCT OF AUSTRALIA, Keep Chilled, Est No: 9999
- Net HSCW:** 123.5 kg
- Body No:** 9656L
- Product Code:** *Y-26-2*
- Inspection:** AUSTRALIA 9999 INSPECTED, QLD MS, AUSTRALIA
- GS1 Bar Code (Compliant to the Meat Industry Guidelines):** (01) 999312345678900(3101)001235(11)020729(21)1249656L
- Oper:** AB34
- Sex:** M
- Dent:** 0
- Fat:** 4
- D. Cat:** Y
- Lot:** 45
- Kill Date:** 29-JUL-02
- GRADE:** AA3

Pallets and Shipments

Logistic Units Numbering and Bar Coding

A logistic unit is an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage, which needs to be managed through the supply chain, and may include cartons and pallets. The Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) is a standard identification number, used for the unique identification of logistic (transport and/or storage) units.

At various points on the way from sender to final recipient, the bar code can be scanned to identify the shipment. The unique number encoded in the bar code will also be used in electronic messages regarding the shipment's progress, allowing all participants in the transport and distribution chain to access the information. A SSCC is a unique 18 digit number. If your company is a member of GS1 Australia the following structure will apply:

- **Application Identifier:** (00)
- **Extension Digit or Packaging Indicator:** Single digit between 0-9 used to increase the capacity of the Serial Reference within the SSCC
- **Country Prefix:** two digits to identify the nationality of the issued number
- **GS1 Company prefix:** five, six or seven digit number to identify the company issuing the number
- **Serial Reference:** Uniquely identifies a shipping unit and is issued sequentially by the shipping company. The number must not be re-used for at least 12 months
- **Check Digit:** Mathematically verifies the validity of the whole number

When coupled with an electronic delivery device, the value of the SSCC comes from its ability to identify a shipment regardless of its contents. For example, some shipments may consist of pallets or containers of the one product while others could be shipments of mixed products or single products. In each case, the shipment receives a unique number and this SSCC identifies that shipment for its lifetime within the transport and distribution chain.

Refer to the applicable Technical Fact Sheets for detail.

Implementation

Making a Start

It is important to understand that full implementation does not have to take place in one step. A proper business plan will help to carry out the process over an extended period of time, which can smooth the impact of cultural, operational and organisational changes.

Implementation or just compliance?

Partial implementation of the GS1 System - possibly to comply with the needs of a trading partner - should not be confused with a planned implementation of the system with a clear objective of achieving desired operational and administrative efficiencies.

Compliance will bring benefits to a relationship with a trading partner. Implementation offers the full spectrum of cost savings and benefits.

There are strategic reasons to implement the GS1 System; for example, when your organisation wishes to introduce the benefits of efficient supply chain management throughout all departments, extend into the supply chains of other business partners and create a free flow of information between all parties involved to effect costs and efficiencies.

There are also tactical reasons; for example when your organisation wishes to achieve efficiencies in specific business procedures such as inventory or production control, based on the additional flow of information enabled by the adoption of GS1 numbering and bar coding.

Steps to Implement

The GS1 Standards have been available and used in many industries, including the red meat industry for more than 10 years so your system vendors should know about the GS1 System. Almost all bar code printers that are less than 8 years old can print the GS1 Bar Codes.

There are several steps that need to occur to implement the GS1 System successfully in your organisation.

The steps defined here have been tailored to suit different size organisations operating in the red meat industry.

These steps should be used in conjunction with the applicable technical fact sheet.

For a processor who is currently applying bar coded carcass tickets and/ or carton labels:

1. Check your carcass ticket system and/ or carton labelling system is GS1 capable by contacting your system vendor. If not then enquire whether it can be upgraded to become GS1 capable.
2. Apply to GS1 Australia to become a member and obtain a GS1 Company Prefix number. This number makes up a component of your bar code and uniquely identifies your company.
3. Review your product codes for compatibility with the GS1 System. Options for product numbers (GTINs) are:

- Match your product codes to the bar code number product codes (GTIN).
 - Use different bar code products codes to you human readable product codes and use the scanners and computer to match the different numbers.
4. Generate some test carton label / carcass tickets and confirm that the bar code number matches the requirements outlined in the applicable technical fact sheets
 5. Send some samples bar codes to GS1 Australia for verification.
 6. Once you receive a satisfactory verification report, start using the GS1 compliant numbering and bar coding on your carcass tickets/ carton labels.

For a processor who is not currently applying bar coded carcass tickets and/ or carton labels:

1. Check your carcass ticket system and/ or carton labelling system is GS1 capable by contacting your system vendor. If not then enquire whether it can be upgraded to become GS1 capable.
2. Once you have a carton labelling/ carcass ticketing system that can generate the GS1 Bar Codes, apply to GS1 Australia to become a member and obtain a GS1 Company Prefix number. This number is incorporated into your bar code and uniquely identifies you.
3. Review your product codes for compatibility with the GS1 System. Options for product numbers are:
 - Match your product codes to the bar code number product codes (GTIN).
 - Use different bar code products code to you human readable product codes and use the scanners and computer to match the different numbers.
4. Generate some test carton label / carcass tickets. Confirm that the bar code number matches the requirements outlined in the applicable technical fact sheets.
5. Send some samples to GS1 Australia for verification. You will receive a verification report.
6. Once you receive a satisfactory verification report, start using the GS1 compliant numbering and bar coding on your carcass tickets/ carton labels.

For a processor or cold store that is not currently applying GS1 (SSCC) Pallet labels:

1. Determine where and when the pallet labels will be applied. This is most likely be where the pallets are scanned and wrapped. You will need to have a computer and bar code label printer as well as suitable software at that location. Check with the vendors that any system offered is GS1 capable.
2. Once you have a pallet labelling system that can generate GS1 SSCC Bar Codes, apply to GS1 Australia to become a member and obtain a GS1 Company Prefix number. This number is part of your SSCC bar code and uniquely identifies you.
3. You may prepare pallet labels for cartons that you have produced or that have arrived into your cold store.

4. Generate some test pallet labels and see that the bar code number matches the requirements outlined in the applicable technical fact sheets
5. Send some samples to GS1 Australia for verification.
6. Once you receive a satisfactory verification report, start using the GS1 compliant numbering and bar coding on your pallet labels.

Refer to the applicable Technical Fact Sheets for detail.

Current Fact Sheets

The current Technical Fact Sheets are:

- Numbering and bar coding for carcass tickets and wrapped non-retail red meat carcasses.
- Numbering and bar coding for carton labels for carton and bulk non-retail red meat products.
- Numbering and bar coding for pallet labels for non-retail red meat products.
- Electronic messaging for cattle and sheep National Vendor Declarations (eDEC).
- Electronic messaging for Meat Transfer Certificates MTCs (eMTC).
- (Note for livestock identification methods refer to the National Livestock Identification Scheme).

Numbering and bar coding for carcass tickets and wrapped non-retail red meat carcasses.

This technical fact sheet covers the requirements for the numbering that comprises the bar code and the size and shape of the bar code applied to carcasses that are traded or moved between establishments. This technical fact sheet is applicable to whole and part red meat carcasses as well as wrapped carcasses where the wrapped or non-wrapped, whole or part carcass is on a hook.

Numbering and bar coding for carton labels for non-retail carton or bulk red meat product.

This technical fact sheet covers the requirements for the numbering that comprises the bar code and the size and shape of the bar code applied to carton or bulk packaging that are traded or moved between establishments. This technical fact sheet is applicable to variable weight or catch weight non-retail edible red meat product. The red meat products covered by this technical fact sheet includes full sets, primal cuts, trim, bone, offal as well as any mix of these products.

Numbering and bar coding for pallet labels for non-retail red meat products.

This technical fact sheet covers the requirements for the numbering that comprises the bar code and the size and shape of the bar code applied to pallet, bulk packaging or other grouped products for the purposes of making consolidated transport units (pallets, jumbo pallets, bulk packs, loose packed truck or trailers and containers) that are traded or moved between establishments.

Electronic messaging for cattle and sheep NVDs (eDEC).

This technical fact sheet covers the steps and requirements for creating, sending, receiving and printing electronic National Vendor Declarations (eNVD) related to the movement of cattle and sheep where a paper NVD would normally have been required.

Electronic messaging for Meat Transfer Certificates MTCs (eMTC).

This technical fact sheet covers the steps and requirements for creating, sending, receiving and printing electronic Meat Transfer Certificates (eMTC) related to the movement of carcass, carton and bulk products between establishments where a paper Meat Transfer Certificate would normally be required.

The current information fact sheet is:

- GS1 Cost Benefit Analysis