

Kroger Corporate Brands FAQs: GTIN-14 Conversion

1. Why am I receiving this communication?

The Kroger Co. is rapidly approaching a milestone in our efforts to re-engineer several of our internal systems and processes to support a full conversion to GDS (Global Data Synchronization).

One of the key components of this conversion requires that all suppliers be GTIN (Global Trade Item Number) compliant, which requires EDI communication with Kroger via version 5010.

We need to ensure that there is no disruption before or during the conversion that would impact our pricing, merchandising or supply chain systems.

2. Do I have to be communicating with Kroger via EDI version 5010 to convert private label items to GTINs?

Yes, if you are currently using EDI, then you must convert to EDI version 5010 to communicate with Kroger once you have converted your private label data to GTIN-14. If you **are not using EDI**, then you do NOT have to convert to EDI.

For information regarding EDI version 5010 and GTIN, please see the **Corporate Brands EDI GTIN FAQ** document or go to:

<http://edi.kroger.com/locations/FAQS%20GTIN%20or%20UPC.doc>

3. Can we complete the EDI 5010 conversion before going through the Corporate Brands GTIN conversion?

Yes. In fact it is recommended to schedule the EDI version upgrade from 4010 to 5010 ahead of time. This will help in making the **Corporate Brand** item GTIN conversion seamless. To schedule your EDI version upgrade, please contact Kroger EDI (edi@kroger.com). Please note: If the EDI version 5010 upgrade is **NOT** done prior to the **Corporate Brands** item GTIN conversion, the EDI version 5010 upgrade **MUST** be done on the same day as the private label item GTIN conversion.

NOTE: It is very important that once the **Corporate Brands** GTIN conversion process has been completed, you need to be exchanging all EDI transactions in version 5010 only.

4. If we convert to 5010 prior to the Corporate Brands GTIN conversion, will this affect the way we send and receive data?

Yes. Once the 5010 conversion is done, All Private Label items will appear to be GTINs.

5. How do I proceed with testing once I complete the EDI 5010 conversion in my system?

Please note: You cannot switch to EDI version 5010 without coordinating this with Kroger EDI. This will lead to data issues. Kroger EDI does not test for version upgrades. However, we strongly recommend that you closely monitor your EDI data and specially the EDI Functional Acknowledgements (997) and Application Advices (824) so you will be able to identify any issues in your data sent to Kroger a.s.a.p. Also, Kroger EDI will monitor your data closely and notify you if we find any deviations from our maps

6. We are already using EDI version 5010 with Kroger. Does the Corporate Brands item GTIN conversion still apply for us?

Yes. Partners/Vendors who are already on EDI version 5010 will still need to go through the **Corporate Brands** GTIN conversion process with Kroger.

7. Where do I find the latest and most 'up to date' information about all the Corporate Brands GTIN and 5010 conversion related topics?

Please bookmark our 'Alerts and Updates' section that is available on our EDI website http://edi.kroger.com/alerts_001.htm. It contains the latest information on any changes for Kroger EDI related to 5010 or Corporate Brands GTIN/GSDN topics.

Please note: If you are an active EDI Partner with Kroger and are outside the scope of the Corporate Brands GTIN project, we are asking that you convert to version 5010 ASAP. Kroger EDI is working to sunset version 4010 this year. Your EDI contact should be receiving or have received a bulletin from Kroger EDI in regards to the 5010 version upgrade.

8. What is a GTIN? Why is Corporate Brands converting to the GTIN-14 to identify items? Why not continue to use UPC's (GTIN-12) and EAN's (GTIN-13)?

GTIN stands for Global Trade Item Number. For example, a 12-digit GTIN is encoded into a U.P.C. barcode. In addition to being the global standard for use in databases, the GTIN-14 can represent any GTIN-12 (UPC) or GTIN-13 (EAN) and the various packaging levels such as case, pallet, etc.

GTINs are stored in databases/applications as 14-digits by right justifying and zero-filling left:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
GTIN-14	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
GTIN-13	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
GTIN-12	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
GTIN-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

GTIN-14's are the GS1 standard for use in databases and are required to synchronize item information through GDSN (Global Data Synchronization Network) data pools. GTINs are shared with trading partners in electronic business transactions (example, data synchronization and EDI)

More information on GTIN's can be found at:

1. http://www.gs1us.org/barcodes_and_ecom/standards/gs1_identification_numbers/global_trade_item_number

9. Why is the GTIN useful?

Uniqueness:

The GTIN identifies an item uniquely. The rules for assigning GTINs ensure that every variation and packaging level of an item (product or service) is allocated a single reference number that is globally unique.

Non-significance:

The GTIN numbering structure does not contain any meaningful information in itself. GTINs are simple pointers to database information that can be directly used in any company and in any country. (Wal-Mart, Proctor & Gamble, and Pfizer are examples of companies that have converted to GTIN-14.)

Multi-sectorial:

GTINs are unique across all business sectors. This means that a healthcare product, a PC sound card or an internet-ordered service are all identified in a compatible manner.

Global:

GTINs are unique worldwide. A GTIN assigned anywhere in the world and can be used anywhere in the world.

Security:

Security of GTINs is provided through a combination of database lookup and the fixed length, numeric format that includes a standard Check Digit.

Data Integrity:

The Check Digit ensures the integrity of data passing into the system.

Source Numbering:

The GTIN is enumerated by the brand owner of the product using their GS1 Company Prefix. Once assigned, all trading partners and internal users can use the GTIN. The same GTIN can be used to identify a series of identical items.

Automatic Data Capture:

One of the key benefits of the GTIN is that it can be encoded in many automatic data capture (AIDC) technologies (such as a bar codes or radio frequency identification (RFID) tags). Scanning allows the information flow to be linked to the physical flow of trade items through the supply chain.

10. Do GTINs replace the U.P.C.?

No, the U.P.C. is the data carrier that encodes a 12-digit GTIN. The U.P.C. does not go away; companies that place a U.P.C. on products now should continue to do so.

11. If a change is made to the product does the GTIN need to change?

A separate, unique GTIN is required whenever any of the pre-defined characteristics of a trade item change. The guiding principle is if the consumer is expected to distinguish a new trade item from an old trade item and purchase accordingly, a new GTIN should be assigned to the new trade item (product package and shelf edge label declarations should appear the same to the consumer).

This website can be of assistance: <http://www.gs1.org/1/gtinrules/>

12. Will I be required to change my case packaging immediately?

Corporate Brands is recommending that you change your CASE Packaging/Labeling to your GTIN barcode within 3 months of your GTIN conversion. Please review the Standard Vendor Agreement to find answers to specific packaging questions. The **Corporate Brand** GTIN project does not override the Standard Vendor Agreement.

13. What time will my conversion take place?

Corporate Brands will supply the data. Kroger will load your GTIN's into their system during normal business hours; however the product identification number will not transfer to a 14 digit GTIN until approximately 10:00 PM Eastern Time on the day of your scheduled conversion.

14. If an item is discontinued, do I need a Case GTIN?

No, but you will need to provide the discontinued date on the **Corporate Brands** GTIN conversion spreadsheet so that Kroger can update its information.

15. We no longer supply Corporate Brands products to you; do we still need to fill out the Questionnaire?

You were contacted because you have items in Kroger's database. Please fill out the Kroger **Corporate Brands** GTIN/ 5010 Conversion **Checklist** so we can remove you from the Accelerated **Corporate Brands** GTIN conversion list.

16. We do not have a separate case level for our products. Do we need to go through this process?

Please fill out the Kroger **Corporate Brands** GTIN/5010 Conversion Checklist so we can accurately identify your items and remove you from our 'Accelerated **Corporate Brands** GTIN Conversion.

17. Who should I contact if I have questions?

For the pilot phase, please contact Gayle Alexander

E-mail address: gayle.alexander@kroger.com

After the pilot phase, there will be a Project Coordinator that will assigned