



Kroger

FAQS: GTIN-14 Conversion

Why am I receiving this communication?

The Kroger Co. is rapidly approaching a milestone in our efforts to reconstruct 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.

All suppliers must be GTIN compliant to ensure we do not have any disruption within our pricing, merchandising or supply chain systems. We do not want to put ourselves into a situation where we are unable to receive item data, inventory, contracts, etc from our valued suppliers due to a GTIN compliance issue.

What is a GTIN? Why is Kroger 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: 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:

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

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. (Walmart, Proctor & Gamble, and Pfizer are examples of companies that have converted to GTIN-14.)

Multi-sectoral:

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 can be used anywhere in the world.

Security:

Security of GTINs is provided through a combination of a 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.

Do I need to change my U.P.C. barcode symbol on consumer products?

No, since a 12-digit U.P.C. is a GTIN, **the only change for you is the way you provide your numbering information on your vendor forms to Kroger for use in databases.**

The GTIN-14 conversion does not affect labeling for retail items.

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.

U.P.C. = GTIN + Bar Code



Is a unique GTIN-14 required for every level of packaging?

Yes. There should be a unique GTIN identifying the single unit, an inner, multi-pack, case, and any intermediate packaging of multiples of the same trade items or a pre-defined assortment of trade items. A trade item grouping or Inner trade item grouping may or may not be sold at POS. (In some regions may also be referred to as Inner Pack). If the item is a saleable unit, it should not be a GTIN-14.

3 GTIN Assignment Methods for higher levels of packaging

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#1 – Using Item Reference

Unrelated Item References

0	0614141	47296	C
0	0614141	31859	C
0	0614141	72690	C
0	0614141	10923	C

Indicator Position (always zero filled)

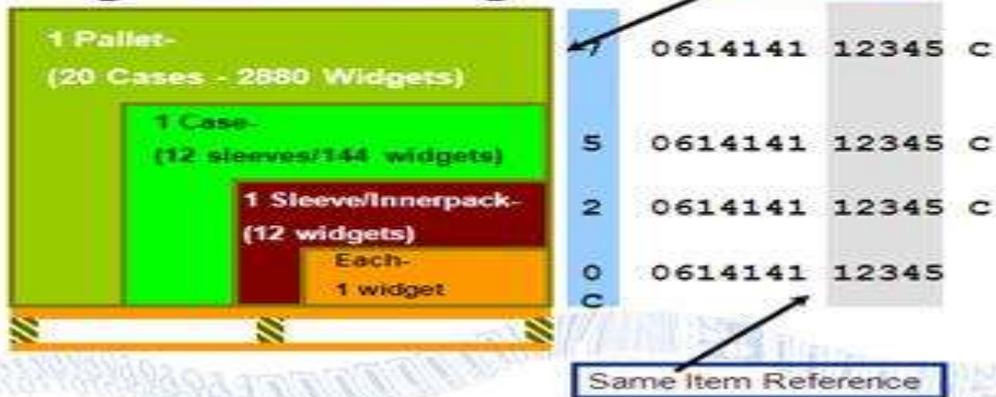
The diagram illustrates packaging levels and their corresponding GTIN-14 values. On the left, a stack of packaging is shown: 1 Pallet (20 Cases - 2880 Widgets), 1 Case (12 sleeves/144 widgets), 1 Sleeve/Innerpack (12 widgets), and Each (1 widget). On the right, a list of GTIN-14 values is shown, with the first digit (Indicator Position) always zero. The last four digits represent the item reference. The last four digits of the GTIN-14 values are 47296, 31859, 72690, and 10923, which correspond to the packaging levels. A box labeled 'Unrelated Item References' points to the last four digits of the first three GTIN-14 values. A box labeled 'Indicator Position (always zero filled)' points to the first digit of the first GTIN-14 value.

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3 GTIN Assignment Methods for higher levels of packaging

#2 – Using Indicator Digit



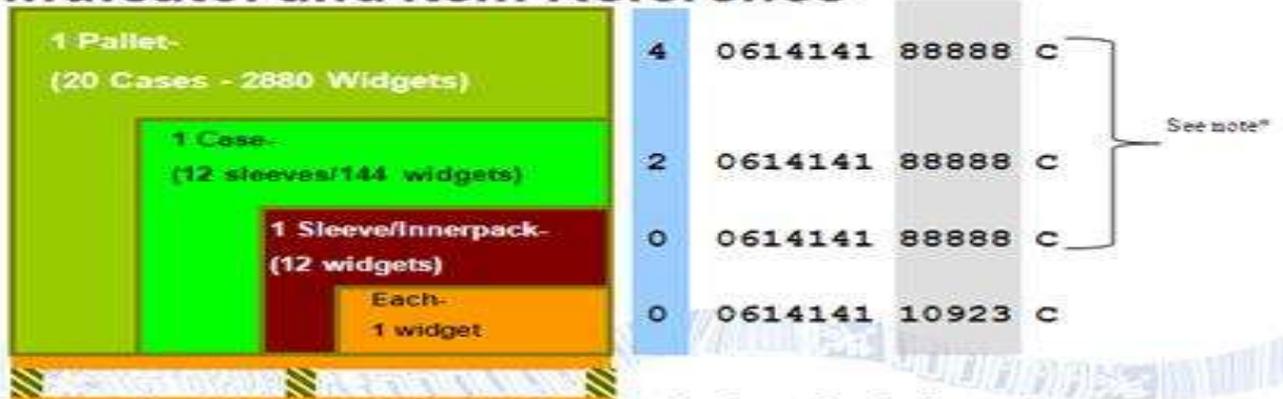
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3 GTIN Assignment Methods for higher levels of packaging

#3- Combination of... Indicator and Item Reference



* Rules state if you insert a zero level after exhausting all levels, each level after must be zero

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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/>

Will I be required to change my case packaging immediately?

Kroger 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 GTIN project does not override the Standard Vendor Agreement. Please review the exhibits attached to the document. The document can be reviewed at: http://edi.kroger.com/programs_001.htm

What time will my conversion take place?

Kroger will load your GTIN's into their system during normal business hours; however your 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.

I produce Kroger Private Label items; will these items convert to GTIN at the same time as my items?

The Kroger Corporate Brands GTIN Conversion Team is converting your Kroger Branded items to GTINs. Please follow this provided link for more information (including a Corporate Brands FAQ). http://edi.kroger.com/alerts_001.htm

If an item is discontinued, do I have to supply a Case GTIN?

No, you will not be required to supply a case GTIN. You will need to provide the discontinued date on the GTIN conversion spreadsheet so Kroger can update its information.

We do business with Kroger Manufacturing/Inter-American Products. We do not deal with GTIN's in manufacturing. Do we need to undergo this process?

If you were contacted by the Kroger GTIN Conversion Team, you have product(s) under your prefix in Kroger's databases. As you convert your products to GTIN, please convert those Kroger Manufacturing/Inter-American Products that you manufacture.

We do not supply our products to Kroger. However, we know that other companies/distributors/suppliers/brokers are supplying our products to Kroger. Do we need to do anything?

As you own the items that are being sold at Kroger, you need to convert your products to GTIN's so

your suppliers/distributors/brokers can communicate your product line with Kroger as GTIN's. We also need you to inform your distributor/broker of this conversion, as they may be communicating with Kroger via EDI and would need to convert to version 5010 as part of this effort.

We've bought a product line from another company and are still using their Case UPC number; can I supply my prefix for the GTIN case for the conversion?

Yes, Kroger wants the most accurate case GTIN for all of your items.

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

Please bookmark our '[Alerts and Updates](#)' page that is available at our EDI website. This will contain the latest information on any changes that involve Kroger EDI, including the ones related to 5010 or GTIN/GSDN related issues.

I am a vendor who deals with DSD (back-door delivery) items. Do we need to go through this process? We deliver directly to your stores and our Unit of Measurement (UOM) is 'each' (EA) and not 'case' (CA). What do we do?

Kroger's requirement is that **ALL** suppliers fill out the Kroger GTIN/5010 Conversion Questionnaire at http://edi.kroger.com/alerts_001.htm Once the Kroger GTIN/5010 Conversion Questionnaire is completed, Kroger will notify you if any additional work is required.

We no longer supply products to you, please let me know if we still need to fill out the Questionnaire?

You were contacted because you have items in Kroger's database. Please fill out the Kroger GTIN 5010 Conversion Questionnaire so we can remove you from the accelerated GTIN conversion list.

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

Please fill out the Kroger GTIN/5010 Conversion Questionnaire so we can accurately identify your items and remove you from the accelerated GTIN conversion list.

Do I have to be communicating with Kroger via EDI version 5010 in order to convert to GTINs?

Yes, if you are currently communicating via EDI then you must convert to EDI version 5010 to communicate with Kroger once you have converted your data to GTIN-14.

If you are not communicating with Kroger via EDI, then you do NOT have to convert to EDI.

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

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

Can we complete the EDI 5010 conversion before going through the 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 item GTIN conversion seamless. To schedule your EDI version upgrade, please contact Kroger EDI (edi@kroger.com). The advantage in moving to EDI version 5010 is there will be a flexibility of exchanging either UPC's or GTIN's for your items, which is not possible with version 4010 in Kroger's system.

If the EDI version 5010 upgrade is NOT done prior to the item GTIN conversion, the EDI version 5010 upgrade **MUST** be done on the same day as the item GTIN conversion.

NOTE: It is very important that once the entire GTIN conversion process has been completed, you need to be exchanging all EDI transactions in version 5010 only. If you have not upgraded to EDI version 5010 by the time of your conversion, Kroger can't send you the GTIN-14 data.

If we convert to 5010 prior to the GTIN conversion, will this affect the way we send data? We will be using case UPC's until our item GTIN conversion happens.

Please note that on October 5, 2010, we expanded our 5010 specifications to be able to exchange data using either UPC's or GTIN's. You can continue to send us case UPC's until your item GTIN conversion happens even in EDI version 5010.

What changes will happen with the EDI version upgrade to 5010?

Once you convert your EDI Partner ISA ID's (EDI communication ID) to 5010, you will be able to exchange data that can contain either a case UPC or a GTIN value. This means if you convert all your EDI Partner ISA ID's to 5010 ahead of a scheduled item GTIN conversion, you will still be able to exchange data in case UPC's until your item GTIN conversion occurs. Once your items have been converted to GTIN's in Kroger's system/systems, your data will contain GTIN's without any intervention/modification from Kroger EDI.

This is not a switch of EDI standards with Kroger. If you are using X12 standards in version 4010, you must continue to exchange data in X12 standards in 5010 standards. **You can NOT change standards**

Will there be any changes in the way I receive data once I convert from EDI version 4010 to 5010?

Please review our 5010 specifications (implementation guides) listed on our EDI website: [5010 Maps](#) for the differences.

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

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

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

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](#)

We are already using EDI version 5010 with Kroger. Does the item GTIN conversion still apply for me?

Yes. Partners/Vendors who are already on EDI version 5010 will still need to go through the GTIN conversion process with Kroger. Kroger will be contacting you with your GTIN conversion date.

I am not sure what my EDI ISAID is/are. How do I find this information? Is it mandatory for me to provide my EDI ISA ID information to complete this process?

Please contact your IT support or your 3rd party provider who is responsible for answering/solving your EDI related issues. They should be able to provide you with your company's EDI ID information. Kroger has a spreadsheet posted on our web site of EDI 3rd Party Software providers. Please be aware: The list of 3rd Party Providers is not a complete/exhaustive list.

http://edi.kroger.com/alerts_pdfs/List%20of%203rd%20Party%20Providers.xls

We deal with both Kroger retail and Fred Meyer (nonfoods). Do we need to convert to 5010 only for Kroger retail or is the 5010 conversion valid for both?

For the GTIN project, it is only mandatory to move to EDI version 5010 for Kroger retail. However, if you would like, you can schedule a version upgrade to 5010 for Fred Meyer (nonfoods) also. Please e-mail edibiz@fredmeyer.com to schedule a date for Fred Meyer (nonfoods). Kroger has a goal to move to version 5010 for all EDI Partners. This includes all its divisions (retail, nonfoods and manufacturing).

We do business with Fred Meyer (non-food) divisions. Are we supposed to make changes to our system?

Fred Meyer General Group exclusive suppliers are currently out of scope for this project. However, suppliers that supply products to other Kroger (Peyton) warehouses need to convert to GTIN and will also need to convert to EDI version 5010.

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

Please bookmark our '[Alerts and Updates](#)' page that is available at our EDI website which will contain the latest information on any changes that involve Kroger EDI including the ones related to 5010 or GTIN/GSDN related issues

We get our orders through i-Trade Network. Do we need to convert to 5010/GTIN? I am not aware of my ISA ID and qualifier. Where do I get them?

Kroger has completed converting all i-Trade EDI partners with Kroger to version 5010. However, you DO need to fill out the Kroger GTIN/5010 Conversion Questionnaire because your items will need to be converted to GTINs in our system.

We use the services of Grocery EC/EDICT to exchange EDI with you. Do we need to do anything from our end or are we already compliant?

Kroger has completed working with Grocery EC/EDICT and have upgraded all partners for Kroger to version 5010. EDICT systems should have sent you a notification of when the 5010 conversion took place. However, please note that even though your EDI Partner version upgrade has been completed between Kroger and EDICT, you DO need to fill out the Kroger GTIN/5010 Conversion Questionnaire because your items will need to be converted to GTINs in our system.

Please note: If you are an active EDI Partner with Kroger and are outside the scope of the 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

Who should I contact if I have questions?

For issues or questions regarding your conversion, contact the Kroger GTIN Conversion Team at CorpGTINConversion@Kroger.com

For issues or question up to 30 days after your conversion, contact the Kroger GTIN Conversion Team at CorpGTINConversion@Kroger.com

For issues or question 30 days or more after your conversion, contact your normal Kroger contact.

For issues related to EDI, contact EDI@Kroger.com

General information regarding UPC's, EANs, and GTINs can be found at www.gs1us.org

For help in identifying your company prefix or with creating Case GTINS, please contact GS1 US at 937-435-3870 or info@gs1us.org

General information regarding EDI related issues can be found at <http://edi.kroger.com>