
GS1 Canada Barcoding Guidelines:

For Cannabis Accessories

April 2018



Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

Key Standards for Cannabis

GS1 Canada Company Prefix

Assigning your Item Numbers – Point of Sale Items

Calculating Check Digits – Point of Sale Items

Assigning your Item Numbers – Cases and Pallets

Calculating Check Digits – Cases and Pallets

Human Readable Interpretations

Printing your Barcodes

Next Steps

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

The information contained within GTINs and other GS1 identifiers are based on global standards. GS1 barcodes are the only globally recognized barcode. Using global standards means your GS1 barcodes can be used all over the world, across multiple sectors and industries.

More than 6 billion GS1 barcodes
are scanned around the world every day



Key Standards For Barcoding Cannabis



All Cannabis suppliers must go through [GS1](#) to secure their barcode symbology and use the following format to package all items with a unique barcode.



Any variance of product size, colour or quantity will require its own unique GTIN.



There should be no truncation of any of the barcodes on any level of packaging.



All products purchased by the OCS must have a retail barcode that scans at first pass through the register.



Barcodes must be clear, legible, scannable, and display the human readable numeric code located beneath the barcode.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

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GS1 Company Prefix

The first part of most barcodes features your unique Company Prefix, a set of numbers common to all the GTINs you produce. The second part refers to a specific product variation. You will need one barcode for each of your products and another barcode for each packaging format, such as pallet or case.



Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

GS1 Company Prefix



The Global Language of Business

Once you have successfully registered, you will receive your company prefix and company prefix license. This globally unique prefix will begin your barcode numbers and represent your company globally throughout the supply chain.



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Annual GS1 Canada Licence

This document certifies that

Steve's Cannabis Co.

has exclusive rights to use the following globally-unique Company Prefix(es) below to create Global Trade Identification Numbers in accordance with the terms and conditions of the GS1 Canada Licence Agreement. For a period of 12 months, this licence provides your organization with the opportunity to access GS1 Canada standards and a full range of value-added services, including ECCnet Registry, GS1 Canada Images, GS1 Canada Product Recall, Item Centre, ECCnet Item Certification - Nutrition and ECCnet Item Certification - Pharmaceutical.

GS1 Canada Company Prefix(es): **123456**

Legal Entity Global Location Number (GLN) **0123456000018**

Expires: **April 20, 2019**

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The Global Language of Business

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Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

GS1 Company Prefix

GS1 Canada's Barcode Prefixes vary in length from 6-9 digits. The prefix length determines how many GTINs can be created using each prefix.

Prefix Length	GTINs	Item Numbers
6 Digits	100,000 items	00000-99,999
7 Digits	10,000 items	0000-9,999
8 Digits	1,000 items	000-999
9 Digits	100 items	00-99

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

Assigning your Item Numbers – Consumer (base) Level items

Each colour, quantity and size variation will require its own unique GTIN. Items numbers are internally assigned. An example using a 6 digit prefix for Point of Sale items would be below:

Bong Style A – 12” red = Item number 00001

Bong Style A – 12” blue = Item number 00002

Bong Style B – 12” clear = Item number 00003

Bong Style B – 15” clear = Item number 00004

Pipe Style A – Blue = Item number 00005

Pipe Style B – Red = Item number 00006

Vape Pen 1– Black = Item number 00007

Vape Pen 1 – Silver = Item number 00008



Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

Calculating your Check Digits

You can now use your **company prefix** and **item number** to represent your items. The final step is to figure out each item's **check digit**. The last digit of a barcode number is a computer generated check digit which makes sure the barcode is correctly composed.

Bong. Style A, 12" red	12345600001 ?
Bong. Style A, 12" blue	12345600002 ?
Bong. Style B, 15" clear	12345600005 ?
Pipe. Style B, red	12345600006 ?



Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

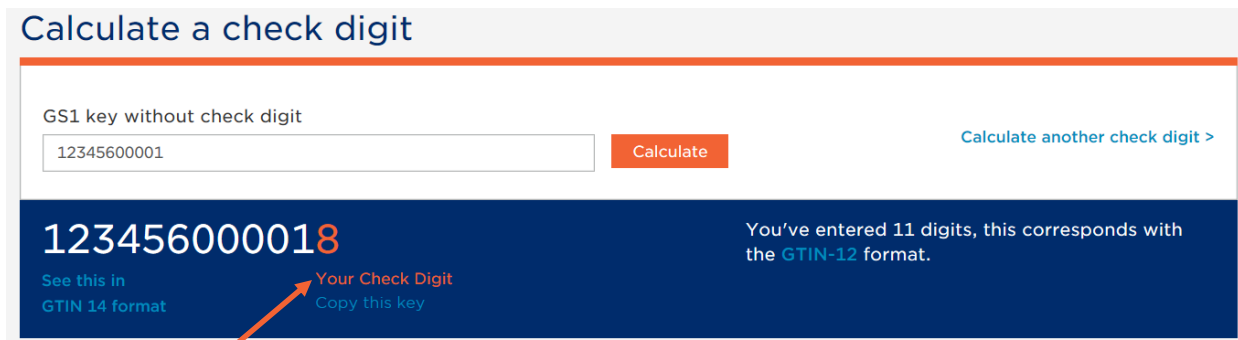
For Cannabis Accessories

Calculating your Check Digits

Click this link to access the Check Digit Calculator  <https://www.gs1.org/services/check-digit-calculator>

Ex. Bong. Style A. 12" red = 12345600001?

Enter your company prefix, followed by the item number and click calculate.



Calculate a check digit

GS1 key without check digit

12345600001 Calculate Calculate another check digit >

123456000018

See this in GTIN 14 format Your Check Digit Copy this key

You've entered 11 digits, this corresponds with the GTIN-12 format.

Your check digit will appear below in orange. Your GTIN for this item would be 123456000018.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

Calculating your Check Digits

Continue the process for all accessory products for your company. Remember that each variance in colour, size, quantity etc. will require its own unique GTIN.

Bong Style A, 12" red	123456000018
Bong Style A, 12" blue	123456000025
Bong Style B, 15" clear	123456000056
Pipe Style B, Red	123456000063

GS1 key without check digit

[Calculate](#) [Calculate another check digit >](#)

123456000063

See this in [GTIN 14 format](#) Your Check Digit [Copy this key](#)

You've entered 11 digits, this corresponds with the [GTIN-12](#) format.

We recommend keeping an excel file to keep track of your assigned GTINs and the corresponding product.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

Assigning your Item Numbers – Higher Levels of Packaging (Cases/ Pallets)

Each colour, quantity and size variation will require its own unique GTIN. Items numbers are internally assigned. An example using a 6 digit prefix for Point of Sale items would be below:

Bong Style A – 12” red = Item number 00001

Bong Style A – 12” blue = Item number 00002

Bong Style B – 12” clear = Item number 00003

Bong Style B – 15” clear = Item number 00004

Pipe Style A – Blue = Item number 00005

Pipe Style B – Red = Item number 00006

Vape Pen 1– Black = Item number 00007

Vape Pen 1 – Silver = Item number 00008

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

Case & Pallet Cannabis Products

An outer package is a package containing a number of consumer packages. Outer packages are often the item level that can be ordered from a supplier or wholesaler. When the outer package has an item number, buyer and seller can be sure that the correct item has been ordered.

Cases and Pallets are set up differently than the point of sale consumer items that go inside them. All the units in each container should share the same UPC or base item barcode. The container code is based on the UPC and includes some additional information about the packaging. All labels must contain both human readable data and barcode(s). Each Case and Pallet must contain the following information:

- ✓ Indicator Digit
- ✓ Space filler 0
- ✓ GS1 company prefix of the Supplier
- ✓ Item number consistent with base item product inside
- ✓ Check digit

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

Case & Pallet Cannabis Products

Creating your GTIN for Higher Levels of Packaging

Case codes and pallet codes are created using 14 digit GTIN numbers. You can create these GTINs by adding case indicators before your GS1 Canada issued company prefix.

The container code is based on the UPC item that goes into the case/pallet. This ensures the same item number is consistent throughout the product hierarchy.

The indicator digits you can use are the following:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.

The case indicator digits have no relation to the amount of items going into your case and must be followed by a space filler 0.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

Case & Pallet Cannabis Products

Creating your GTIN for Higher Levels of Packaging

Ex.

Bong Style B – 12" clear = consumer GTIN 123456000032

Case of 6 = 10 12345600003 ?

Case of 12 = 20 12345600003 ?

Case of 24 = 30 12345600003 ?

By Adding the case indicator digit and space filler 0 in front of your base item code, the check digits at the end will change. The prefix and item numbers remain the same. Remember that the case indicator you use should not reflect the quantity of items in the case or pallet.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

Case & Pallet Cannabis Products

Calculating your Check Digits for Higher Levels of Packaging (Cases & Pallets)

Click this link to access the Check Digit Calculator <https://www.gs1.org/services/check-digit-calculator>

Enter your case indicator digit followed by a space filler 0. Then add your company prefix, item number and click calculate. Make sure your item number is consistent throughout the hierarchy.

GS1 key without check digit

Calculate

Calculate another check digit >

10123456000039

Your Check Digit
Copy this key

You've entered 13 digits, this corresponds with a GTIN-14 format of the GTIN.

Your check digit will appear below in orange.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

Case & Pallet Cannabis Products

Calculating your Check Digits for Higher Levels of Packaging (Cases & Pallets)

As mentioned in the previous slide, adding the case indicator digit and space filler 0 in front of your base item code will adjust the check digit. Ex. Bong Style B-12" clear = consumer GTIN 123456000032

GS1 key without check digit

[Calculate](#) [Calculate another check digit >](#)

123456000032

See this in
GTIN 14 format

Your Check Digit
Copy this key

You've entered 11 digits, this corresponds with
the **GTIN-12** format.

Case of 6 = 10123456000039

GS1 key without check digit

[Calculate](#) [Calculate another check digit >](#)

10123456000039

Your Check Digit
Copy this key

You've entered 13 digits, this corresponds with a
GTIN-14 format of the GTIN.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

Case & Pallet Cannabis Products

Calculating your Check Digits for Higher Levels of Packaging (Cases & Pallets)

Continue this process for all higher levels of packaging. Remember you can use case indicator digits 1 through 8 (9 is reserved for Variable Weight Items). Each time you adjust the case indicator digit the check digit will change again.

Case of 6 = 10123456000039

Case of 12 = 20123456000036

Case of 24 = 30123456000033

GS1 key without check digit

[Calculate another check digit >](#)

30123456000033

Your Check Digit
Copy this key

You've entered 13 digits, this corresponds with a GTIN-14 format of the GTIN.

Barcoding Guidelines & Requirements

For Cannabis Accessories

Human Readable Interpretation

The GS1 standard requires that a textual representation is included under the barcodes to support human readable interpretation. If the barcode symbol cannot be read or scanned due to damage, the Human Readable text can be used as backup information.

Below is an example of a base item code printed in the UPC-A format, with Human Readable Text.

Bong Style A, 12" red
GTIN: 123456000018



Printing Your Barcodes

- ✓ You can [access Solution Providers for printing barcode symbols here](#)
- ✓ Provide your printer with the GTINs you need printed and the type of barcode symbology to use:

123456000018
123456000025
123456000056
123456000063



UPC-A
For Point of
Sale Items

10123456000039
20123456000036
30123456000033

ITF-14
For Cases &
Pallets



Barcode Printing Guidelines

- ✓ Ensure that the Human Readable Interpretation is included under or beside the barcode graphic
- ✓ Barcodes can be printed on the packaging or on labels.
- ✓ Use the correct Barcode Printing Format – UPC-A
- ✓ Create and follow a quality control procedure and test code quality at each stage of the design process.
- ✓ Choose printing substrates that avoid smudged ink and distortion of barcodes.
- ✓ Ensure the barcode shows crisp, clear well defined bars to avoid readability issues when scanned.

