
GLN Non-Reuse Rule

Frequently Asked Questions

1- Who decided to change the GLN usage rules?

Through GS1's Community Management process in 2021, the GLN Standards were updated. These updates included GLN non-reuse, GS1 General Specifications, GLN Allocation Rules Standard and GLN Data Model Solution Standard.

2- When will the GLN non-reuse rule come into effect?

The standard for GLN reuse will change on July 1, 2022. It is recommended that GLN reuse cease in advance of July 1, 2022, and as soon as companies can transition their practices. If reuse is not currently occurring, it SHOULD NOT be started.

3- What is the GLN non-reuse rule?

As of July 1, 2022, a GLN allocated to a party and/or location SHALL NOT be reallocated to another party and/or location in **any** industry.

All issuers of Global Location Numbers (GLNs) must ensure that GLNs allocated for locations used in the healthcare supply chain shall NEVER be reused, e.g., locations where treatment of patients takes place.

4- Are there any exceptions to the GLN non-reuse rule?

The only exceptions to the GLN non-reuse rule are:

- If the GLN was never published in an externally accessible manner (e.g., to a registry or directly to a trading partner), it may be re-used prior to July 1, 2022.
- GLNs discontinued and withdrawn from systems prior to July 1, 2022, may be considered for reuse to identify the original party or location. However, companies are strongly advised to follow the non-reuse rule for all GLNs to avoid the risk of conflicting data.

5- Why has the GLN non-reuse rule been established?

GLN non-reuse rule helps to ensure unique, persistent party and location identification. Quality identification supports access to data when it is needed. GLNs support and enable various business processes including:

- Traceability.
- Product recalls and withdrawals.
- Improved location identification.

6- What type of locations use GLNs?

GLN is the GS1 identification key that is used to answer the who and where in business. All types of locations, including supply chain parties, legal entities, functional locations, and physical locations and digital locations, use GLNs. GLNs are assigned to parties and locations to provide a key to access master data in a business process (e.g., order, shipping and receiving).

7- What is GLN master data?

For each GLN, master data will be assigned to support business processes. Master data associated with a GLN should be established in a database, then the GLN can be used to facilitate efficient communication of this information. The GLN master data may include, but is not limited to, name, address and contact details.

8- How will the GLN non-reuse rule impact my organization?

If you are currently using GLNs in your organization, you need to comply with the GLN non-reuse rule as of July 1, 2022. After that date, a GLN that you have assigned to a location or party shall NOT be reallocated to another party and/or location.

9- How do I get a GLN?

When you become a GS1 Canada subscriber, you receive your legal entity GLNs. If you receive a GS1 Company Prefix as part of your subscription, you can assign GLNs to your locations using your GS1 Company Prefix. [Click here](#) for additional information.

10- What happens if the GLN non-reuse rule has not been followed?

The GLN Management Rules are designed to help industry make consistent decisions about the **unique identification** of parties and locations. The GLN

non-reuse rule enables the globally unique identification of parties and locations. Failure to comply with the GLN non-reuse rule could result in inefficiencies and confusion in your supply chain. For example, shipments may arrive at the wrong location, or you may not be able to find the correct location of a product in the event of a recall.

11- What do I do if my company is sold?

If your company is sold, the buying company needs to make the decision on how to manage the GLNs moving forward.

When a company is sold to another organization, the buying organization can choose to purchase the acquired company's GS1 prefix. In this scenario, the buying company can keep the GLNs of the acquired company to support the customers of the acquired company, or they can choose to assign new GLNs to the acquired company's locations.

The buying company can choose not to buy the acquired company's GS1 prefix. In this scenario, the buying company must create new GLNs for the locations of the company they purchased.

12- What if my company merges with another company?

When two companies merge, they become one organization. As a result, one of the existing legal entity GLNs should be used. The other legal entity GLN needs to be deactivated, as the company does not exist anymore. All other GLNs created under the deactivated legal entity GLN should also be removed from active use.

For additional information, check section 3.3 of [GS1 GLN Allocation Rules Standards](#).

13- What do organizations need to consider when applying the GLN non-reuse rule to their locations?

- Ensure your systems are designed to prevent GLN reuse.
- Adhere to GS1 GLN Allocation Rules Standard and GS1 General Specifications when creating and assigning GLNs.
- Remember that regulatory requirements supersede standards requirements.

14- Where can I find more information about the GLN non-reuse rule?

- [GS1 GLN Allocation Rules Standards](#)
- [GS1 Canada's GLN Page](#)
- [GS1 General Specifications](#) section 4.6 GLN rules
- Contact info@gs1ca.org