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LINK

THE SUPPLY CHAIN

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GS1 Health Check for supply chain sanity



Asked about the number one benefit of the GS1 Health Check, ONE Group's Colin Chenery had a simple answer: clarity.

The Organics and Natural Enterprise Group is growing fast, and with its rapid expansion has come increased pressure to minimise mistakes and reduce the time spent tracking materials through to manufacturing and dispatch.

"We wanted an objective measure of where we were at in terms of our systems, the need for scanning and tracking and our resource planning," Colin said. "The Health Check gave us that clarity and the benefit of an outsider's expert viewpoint."

GS1 Australia's Health Check program includes a review of the GS1 system's (previously known as the EAN-UCC system) use throughout a business. From there, if your business is

preparing to implement the GS1 system, the report outlines the steps needed to progress. For businesses like ONE Group that are already working with the GS1 System, the Health Check report highlights opportunities to leverage the benefits of the system further.

The Health Check begins with a questionnaire to determine business requirements and priorities for the analysis. Because nothing can replace first hand observation, the questionnaire is followed up with a one-day site visit by a GS1 Professional Services Advisor. During their visits, advisors gather more data, analyse and document the results and present the findings in the Health Check Report.

The most common areas addressed by the Health Check Service includes:

- Ordering and receiving stock or raw materials from suppliers
- How stock and raw materials are put away
- Tracking raw materials into production
- Tracking work in progress inventories
- Transferring finished goods into storage
- Receiving and processing orders from customers

- Stocktaking
- Product traceability and product recalls

According to GS1 Australia's Professional Services Manager, Sunita Kewada, the GS1 Health Check is proving popular with businesses either simply seeking to comply with trading partner requirements or looking to streamline their business processes.

In ONE Group's case, the Health Check was all about reducing costs with efficient systems and, Colin said, the report gave the company much needed focus.

"The categories of analysis and the method of grading them based on company size and growth stage used in the GS1 Health Check, clearly highlighted what areas needed attention and to what degree. The report will also provide a valuable reference point as we review our progress, new inventory track and trace systems become critical to our operations, and new operational needs arise," he said.

For further information about the GS1 Health Check, please contact Marcel Sieira on 1300 366 033 or via email msieira@gs1au.org

ALLIANCE **PARTNER** EDITORIAL

National Foods goes beyond EANnet® compliance with



National Foods is Australia's largest dairy foods company with brands that include Yoplait, Divine Classic, Pura,

Vitasoy, Fruche, Big M, YoGo, King Island, and Farmers Union. Like many suppliers operating within the consumer packaged goods industry, the challenge of complying with customer trading requirements increases every year.

In understanding the importance of having accurate and consistent product data, the Data Integrity Group (DIG) was created with responsibility for managing product-related master data. Initially, data was maintained manually using a number of Excel spreadsheets and custom-built databases. Whilst the process was adequate for a short period, it quickly became complex and convoluted as the data set grew. DIG realised that delivering reliable product information to core business systems was a critical business challenge. Excel spreadsheets did not provide the capability to automate basic tasks such as:

Help just a phone call away



Whether you are ready to take your warehouse to the next level with the GS1 system or simply struggling to come to terms with all the acronyms, take heart – help is at hand.

Finding the answers is as simple as calling GS1 Australia's Member and Industry Support (MIS) helpdesk. The MIS team has received in excess of 900 calls over the past four months.

Typical inquiries, says MIS's Senior Account Executive, Andrew Steele, range from building the perfect bar code through to preparing for electronic messaging.

"Actually, there really is no 'average day' for our people," he said. "We are very responsive and deal with the full range of everyday supply chain issues facing our members and their trading partners."

Having said that, the MIS team takes a highly proactive approach when it comes to industry-



Above - Member and Industry Support Team

wide initiatives. Its team members guide many of the initiatives, pilots and education programs featured in *Supply Chain LINK*.

"Right now, for example, we are working intensively on the Monash project, which is applying GS1 systems to pharmaceuticals; conducting training sessions for the hardware industry; updating numbering and bar coding formats for the meat industry; helping the automotive aftermarket implement EANnet®; and developing an industry charter for the apparel and general merchandise sector," Andrew said.

"And we're not just there for the big guys. We're there to help individual businesses stay up to date with the demands of their industries and trading partners."

Acknowledging that the GS1 system could be confusing, Andrew urged members to seek assistance from MIS experts.

"Supply chain management is dominated by jargon and acronyms and sometimes,

working out when to use an Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) or a GRAI, for example, and then understanding how all the elements of the GS1 system knit together can be very daunting," he said.

"Once members realise they don't have to work it out on their own, there's often an enormous sense of relief. We encourage members to learn more about the benefits of the system and take a look at their own operations.

"Ask yourself this: 'Am I getting the maximum benefits out of the standards or am I simply complying with the requirements of my trading partners?' If you're drowning in a sea of paperwork or your cash flow is sucked dry by excess inventories, call us. We can put you on the right path – often with a few phone calls or a site visit."

For more information please contact the member and industry support team at GS1 Australia on 1300 366 033

Product Data Management

- Applying business rules to validate data
- Synchronise changes with transactional and reporting systems
- Enforce data consistency using both internal and external standards.

With additional trading requirements being introduced by customers, projects like EANnet® compliance, Shelf Ready Packaging, Advance Shipping Notices, and Recipient Created Tax Invoices, were becoming more and more difficult to deliver. Whilst it was always possible to 'throw' people into repeated data cleansing,

the long term goal was to implement cost-effective and sustainable business processes that guarantee data quality and data integrity.

Working with Innovit, a GS1 Australia Business Alliance Partner National Foods introduced the iICE® Product Data Management system. iICE enabled centralised and controlled maintenance of product master data, thereby allowing 'accurate' product information to be distributed to employees, management reporting systems, and retail customers. By empowering staff with the right tools, DIG was able to:

- Provide reliable business intelligence and reporting.
- Exceed customer requirements for electronic trading.
- Maintain data integrity across multiple systems & applications.
- Reduce data entry errors.

For more information please contact Robert Durrant from Innovit on 03 9429 2293 or Helen Harcourt from National Foods on 03 8544 3367

innovit

