GS1 Data Source

Guideline for choosing the right packaging type

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1.7	14-8-2021	Frederieke Vlieg	Added new packaging type code 'Wire' (WIRE).

Disclaimer

1 Packaging types

When entering data in GS1 Data Source you can choose a relevant code for the packaging of your product. This overview helps you to choose the right code.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Aerosol		AE	A gas-tight, pressure-resistant packaging with a valve and propellant gas. When the valve is opened, the pressure will force out the product from the package as a (fine) spray or stream (for example, a spray can may contain deodorant or pressurized hair spray). Atomisers are not included, because they are not pressurised to push the product out of the package.
Ampoule		AM	A relatively narrow packaging, consisting of a glass or plastic tube, of which one end is pulled into a stem and melted closed after filling. The bottom of an ampoule may be flat, convex or oval. An ampoule is opened by breaking off the stem.
Bag		BG	A preformed, flexible packaging, usually only open on one side, the opening of which may or may not be closed after filling.
Bag in Box		BBG	Bag-in-Box or BIB is a type of packaging for handling or transporting liquids. It consists of a sturdy bag, usually in aluminium, PET foil or some other synthetic material, placed inside a cardboard box. The container and internal bag may be fused. In most cases a nozzle or valve is attached to the bag. The nozzle may be connected to a dispenser or the valve allows convenient dispensing
Banded package		X11	Used to tie or wrap products or packaging together in order to hold the unit together.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Barrel		BA	A cylindrical packaging with a permanently attached bottom with a top that may or may not be removable.
Basket		BK	A semi-rigid package, usually open at the top, which you can use traditionally for collecting, transporting and selling agricultural products.
Blister pack		BPG	A type of packaging where the item is packaged between a preformed 'blister' (usually made of transparent plastic) and a cardboard 'carrier'. These may be attached to each other by means of staples, heat welding, gluing or in some other way. In some cases, the blister packaging is completely wrapped around the product like an oyster shell. Blister packs are usually made from polyvinyl chloride by thermoforming, but almost any thermoplastic may be formed into a blister.
Bottle		BO	A packaging with a round neck whose diameter is smaller than that of the body, with an opening that may be closed with a cap to preserve the contents. More specifically: a packaging with a narrow neck compared to a pot or packaging with a wide opening. The diameter of the bottle may be round, oval, square, rectangular or a combination of these. Bottles are usually made of glass or plastic, but of earthenware or metal as well. Bottles may be recyclable, returnable, reusable or single use.
Box		BX	A non-specific term referring to a non-flexible, three-dimensional packaging with closed sides completely enclosing the contents and may be made of any material. Although some boxes are suitable for reuse or reclosing, they may also be single use, depending on the product hierarchy.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Brick		BRI	A rectangular, stackable packaging that is primarily intended for liquids such as milk and fruit juice.
Bucket		BJ	A usually cylindrical packaging, possibly equipped with a lid and handle (made of metal, plastic or other suitable material).
Cage		CG	A container that is closed on at least one side with wire or bars, so that air and light can enter.
Can		CNG	A metal, usually cylindrical packaging of undetermined size. This is used for products in consumer quantities and institutional quantities.
Card		CM	A flat packaging on which the product is mounted or is attached to for presentation purposes.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Carton		CT	A non-specific term for a resealable packaging commonly used for perishable food (e.g. eggs or fruit).
Cartridge		CQ	A package that is an exchangeable part of a device (for example, a printer). It contains an object or substance that is suitable for insertion into a device / other object (printer / glass). Examples are ink or lemonade syrup.
Case		CS	A non-specific term for a package that is used to contain, enclose and / or protect contents during distribution, storage and / or presentation. Covers are usually intended to keep products in good condition throughout their lifecycle. Examples are: CD cases, makeup boxes, spectacle case.
Clam Shell		CMS	A package consisting of two halves that are connected to each other by a hinged part. This hinged part ensures that you can move both halves towards each other and close them. The shape of this package may vary.
Crate		CR	A non-specific term that usually refers to a non-flexible, three-dimensional package with partially closed sides. Used for packaging items for transport or storage. Crates' tops may be open or closed and may contain internal compartments. Although some crates are suitable for reuse or reclosing, they can also be single use. This depends on the product hierarchy.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Cup\Tub		CU	A flat-bottomed packaging with an underside or undetermined shape that may or may not be closed with a member. This type of packaging is usually made of paper, plastic or different materials and usually (but not always) used for food such as: ice cream, margarine, yogurt, sour cream, candy, etc.
Cylinder		CY	A non-flexible, cylindrical packaging with straight sides and circular ends of equal size.
Envelope		EN	A usually flat packaging of flexible material with only two surfaces, connected to each other on three sides to form a cover. The open side may be used to fill the packaging. It may be closed afterwards using a self-adhesive flap, heat seal, string, metal clamp or other seal. A valve enables convenient dosing.
Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container		ZU	A flexible container that is used for transporting and storing liquids or other bulk material. The container's shape and the material it is made of are based on the container's requirements.
Gable Top		GTG	A rectangular, non-stackable packaging that is primarily intended for liquids such as milk and fruit juice.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Intermediate Bulk Container, rigid plastic		AA	This type of container is connected to a pallet when used or is built in at the bottom of the container and is therefore permanently attached to it. The container is used for transporting and storing liquids or other bulk materials. The container's shape and the material it is made of are based on the container's requirements. Therefore, different variants are available.
Jar		JR	A non-flexible packaging with a large opening, made of glass, stone, earthenware, plastic or other suitable material. This is used to store products (for example, jam or cosmetics, facial cream, pickles). Please note: the codes for jars (JR) and pot (PT) are interchangeable, apart from flower and herb pots that are always called pot (PT).
Jug		JG	A reservoir, usually cylindrical, with a handle and / or spout for containing and pouring out liquids.
Multipack		MPG	A bundle of products that are held together by the packaging for the consumer's convenience. A multi-pack is always a consumer unit. With the exception of items that are held together by a packaging strap.
Net		NT	A package with an open structure of threads or strips, woven in a regular pattern with openings between the threads. The packaging is intended for holding or carrying products.
Not packed		NE	The item is supplied without packaging or 'unpackaged'.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Packed, unspecified		PUG	The packaging of the product (or products) is currently not listed. Use this code if no suitable options are available and only when a change proposal has been approved for the relevant package type.
Pallet		PX	A platform used to store or transport cargo units on.
Pallet Box		PB	A crate to which a pallet platform is permanently linked or which requires a pallet platform to be used and stored. You cannot use the pallet crate without a pallet platform. Submit the characteristics of the pallet platform based on the characteristics in the pallet type code list.
Peel Pack		PLP	A packaging intended for sterile products that can be torn open without touching the product.
Pot		PT	Packaging with a flat bottom without a fixed shape (round, square, triangular etc.). The packaging may have a lid, but doesn't have to. Pots are usually made of cardboard, plastic, ceramics, metal or other materials and can be used for various products: cosmetics, food / liquids, dairy products, plants. Please note: the codes for bus (JR) and pot (PT) are interchangeable, apart from flower and herb pots that are always called pot (PT).
Pouch		PO	A preformed, flexible packaging usually sealed with a seam at the bottom. May be placed upright on a shelf.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Rack		RK	A non-specific term for a frame or stand used to move, place, hang or store products. Often equipped with wheels and mainly used in logistics for delivery of items such as hanging clothing items or items on shelves, such as dairy products, bakery products and flowers.
Reel		RL	A core around which wire, cable, film, etc. are wound. A coil is usually provided with side flanges and is used in shipping and processing
Roll		RO	A flexible, cylindrical packaging with straight sides and circular ends of equal size. The ends are not provided with flanges (such as with a coil). A roll may consist of one or multiple layers of packaging (such as rusk).
Shrinkwrapped		SW	A packaging consisting of a plastic foil enclosing a product or group of products, heated so that it shrinks and keeps the unit together. Shrink-wrap is used to tightly wrap a packaging or loading unit so that it is tied together, protected and immobilized for further processing or shipment.
Sleeve		SY	A flexible packaging with open sides usually made of paper, cardboard or plastic, which is slid over the content for protection or presentation.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Stretchwrapped		STR	A packaging consisting of plastic foil with a high elastic capacity that is stretched and wrapped around a product or group of products. Stretch film is used to tightly wrap a packaging or loading unit so that it is tied together, protected and immobilized for further processing or shipment.
Tray		PU	A usually shallow packaging, with or without a cover, used to move or display products.
Tube		TU	A cylindrical packaging that is sealed on one side and closed on the other using a cap or dosing device.
Wire		WIRE	A packaging made of a non-specific material in the form of very flexible thread or slender rod.
Wrapper		WRP	Packaging of (a part of) products with one or more layers of flexible packaging materials (e.g. separately packaged ice cream). This does not include products in shrink or vacuum packaging, or stretch packaging.

Table 1.1: examples and descriptions of types of packaging.

Any questions? Please contact our customer support via *info@gs1.nl* or +31 (0) 20 511 38 88.