My Product Manager

Guideline for choosing the right packaging type

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Document summary

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Change log

Version	Date	Changed by	Summary of change
1.0	1-12-2012	Jan Schimmel	First version.
1.1	17-9-2014	Sjoerd Schaper Reinier Prenger	Some minor changes due to: - Two erroneous codes. - Codes that expire. - Codes to be added. - Language and style errors. In addition, the document has been placed in the new layout.
1.2	22-2-2016	Reinier Prenger	Adjusted codes and definitions for the purpose of GDSN Major Release 3.1.
1.3	25-5-2016	Reinier Prenger	- Title and text front page changed. - Packaging type JR renamed from 'Pot' to 'Jar/Pot'. Also added example of sprinkler.
1.4	9-8-2016	Suzanne Deveer	CR 16-535: - Additional image to code PU (tray) for illustration.
1.5	02-03-2017	Frederieke Vlieg	- The following packaging type codes have been added: Cartridge, clamshell, pallet, pallet crate, jar, roll, intermediate bulk container inflexible, intermediate bulk container flexible. - Packaging type JR renamed from 'Pot' to 'Jar'. Also added example of sprinkler.
1.6	23-2-2018	Sarina Pielaat	- Sentence about abbreviation '(NL)' removed. This was in fact no longer applicable.
1.7	14-8-2021	Frederieke Vlieg	- Add packaging type 'Wire' (WIRE)
1.8	26-4-2024	Bert De Rechter	- Removed example for 'Bag' as it also appears at 'Pouch'. - Added example at 'wrapper' (WRP) as clarification.

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1 Packaging types

When entering item data in My Product Manager, you have a choice of different codes for packaging types. In My Product Manager, select a packaging type from the list that has the name and code behind it (e.g., Bottle (BO)).

Below is an overview to help you choose the right packaging type for your product.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Ampoule		AM	A relatively small container made from glass or plastic tubing, the end of which is drawn into a stem and closed by fusion after filling. The bottom may be flat, convex, or drawn out. An ampule is opened by breaking the stem.
Bag in Box		BBG	Bag-In-Box or BIB is a type of container for the storage and transportation of liquids. It consists of a strong bladder, usually made of aluminium PET film or other plastics seated inside a corrugated fibreboard box. The box and internal bag can be fused together. In most cases there is nozzle or valve fixed to the bag. The nozzle can be connected easily to a dispensing installation, or the valve allows for convenient dispensing.
Carton		CT	A non-specific term for an open or re-closable container used mostly for perishable foods (e.g., eggs, or fruit).
Cup\Tub\Bowl		CU	A flat-bottomed container that has a base of any shape and which may or not be closed with a lid. Usually made of paper, plastic, or other materials these containers are typically used to contain mostly (but not exclusively) foods such as ice cream, margarine, yogurt, sour cream, confections, etc.
Can		CNG	A metallic and generally cylindrical container of unspecified size which can be used for items of consumer and institutional sizes.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Blister pack		BPG	A type of packaging in which the item is secured between a preformed (usually transparent plastic) dome or "bubble" and a paperboard surface or "carrier." Attachment may be by stapling, heat-sealing, gluing, or other means. In other instances, the blister folds over the product in clam-shell fashion to form an enclosing container. Blisters are most usually thermoformed from polyvinyl chloride; however, almost any thermoplastic can be thermoformed into a blister.
Cartridge		CQ	A container holding an item or substance, designed for insertion into a mechanism. Examples: Ink. Beverage Syrup.
Clam shell		CMS	A one-piece container consisting of two halves joined by a hinge area which allows the structure to come together to close. Clamshells get their name from their appearance to the shell of a clam, which it resembles both in form and function.
Box		BX	A non-specific term used to refer to a rigid, three-dimensional container with closed faces that completely enclose its contents and may be made of any material. Even though some boxes might be reused or become resealed they could also be disposable depending on the product hierarchy.
Wire		WIRE	A packaging made of a non-specific material in the form of very flexible thread or slender rod.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Bucket		BJ	A container, usually cylindrical, can be equipped with a lid and a handle. (E.g., a pail made of metal, plastic, or other appropriate material).
Bottle		BO	A container having a round neck of relatively smaller diameter than the body and an opening capable of holding a closure for retention of the contents. Specifically, a narrow-necked container as compared with a jar or wide-mouth container. The cross section of the bottle may be round, oval, square, oblong, or a combination of these. Bottles generally are made of glass or plastics but can also be earthenware or metal. Bottle may be disposable, recyclable, returnable, or reusable.
Case		CS	A non-specific term for a container designed to hold, house, and sheath or encase its content while protecting it during distribution, storage and/or exhibition. Cases are mostly intended to store and preserve its contents during the product's entire lifetime.
Sleeve		SY	A non-rigid container usually made of paper, cardboard, or plastic, that is open-ended and is slid over the contents for protection or presentation.
Card		CM	A flat package to which the product is hung or attached for display.
Jug		JG	A container, normally cylindrical, with a handle and/or a lid or spout for holding and pouring liquids.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Cylinder		CY	A rigid cylindrical container with straight sides and circular ends of equal size.
Cage		CG	A container enclosed on at least one side by a grating of wires or bars that lets in air and light.
Crate		CR	A non-specific term usually referring to a rigid three-dimensional container with semi-closed faces that enclose its contents for shipment or storage. Crates could have an open or closed top and may have internal divers. Even though some crates might be reused or become resealed they could also be disposable depending on the product hierarchy.
Shrink-wrapped		SW	In packaging, a plastic film around an item or group of items which is heated causing the film to shrink, securing the unit integrity. The use of shrunken film to tightly wrap a package or a unit load to bind, protect and immobilize it for further handling or shipping.
Basket		BK	A semi rigid container usually open at the top traditionally used for gathering, shipping, and marketing agricultural products.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Multipack		MPG	A bundle of products held together for ease of carriage by the consumer. A multipack is always a consumer unit.
Net		NT	A container of meshwork material made from threads or strips twisted or woven to form a regular pattern with spaces between the threads that is used for holding, carrying, trapping, or confining something.
Not packed		NE	The item is provided without packaging.
Pallet		PX	A platform used to hold or transport unit loads.
Pallet Box		PB	A three-dimensional container which either has a pallet platform permanently attached at its base or alternatively requires a platform for its handling and storage as due to its constitution it cannot be handled without it. The characteristics of the platform should be specified using the pallet type code list.
Brick		BRI	A rectangular-shaped, stackable package designed primarily for liquids such as juice or milk

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Gable Top		GTG	A rectangular-shaped, non-stackable package designed primarily for liquids such as juice or milk
Peel pack		PLP	A package used for sterile products which may be torn open without touching the product inside.
Jar		JR	A rigid container made of glass, stone, earthenware, plastic, or other appropriate material with a large opening, which is used to store products, (e.g., jams, cosmetics). *Note that the codes for Jar (JR) and pot (PT) are interchangeable, apart from flower and herb pots which are always called pot (PT).*
Pot		PT	A flat-bottomed container that has a base of any shape and which may or not be closed with a lid. Pots are usually made of cardboard, plastic, ceramic, metal, or other materials and may be used for a wide array of products such as cosmetics, food/liquids, dairy products, plants. *Note that the codes for Jar (JR) and pot (PT) are interchangeable, apart from flower and herb pots which are always called pot (PT).*
Rack		RK	A non-specific term identifying a framework or stand for carrying, holding, or storing items. Commonly on wheels and primarily used in the logistical functions to deliver items such as hanging garments, or items on shelves such as dairy products and bakery items and flowers.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Roll		RO	A flexible, cylindrical package with straight sides and circular ends of the same size. The ends do not have flanges (as in a coil). A reel may consist of one or more layers of packaging (like rusks).
Roll		RL	A core around which wire, cable, film, etc. is wound. Usually, a spool has side flanges and is used in shipping and processing.
Aerosol		AE	A gas-tight, pressure-resistant container with a valve and propellant. When the valve is opened, propellant forces the product from the container in a fine or coarse spray pattern or stream. (e.g., a spray can dispensing paint, furniture polish, etc, under pressure). It does not include atomizers, because atomizers do not rely on a pressurised container to propel product from the container.
Pouch		PO	A preformed, flexible container, generally enclosed with a gusset seal at the bottom of the pack can be shaped/arranged to allow the pack to stand on shelf.
Stretch-wrapped		STR	In packaging, a high-tensile plastic film, stretched and wrapped repeatedly around an item or group of items to secure and maintain unit integrity. The use of stretch film to tightly wrap a package or a unit load to bind, protect and immobilize it for further handling or shipping.
Tray		PU	A shallow container, which may or may not have a cover, used for displaying or carrying items.
Tube		TU	A cylindrical container sealed on one end that could be closed with a cap or dispenser on the other end.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Intermediate Bulk Container, rigid plastic		AA	A Rigid Intermediate Bulk Container (RIBC) that is attached to a pallet or has the pallet integrated into the RIBC. The container is used for the transport and storage of fluids and other bulk materials. The construction of the IBC container and the materials used are chosen depending on the application. There are various types available in the marketplace. Foldable (collapsible) IBC Container, Plastic composite IBC Container, Wire Cage IBC Container, Steel IBC Container, and Stainless-steel IBC Container.
Flexible Intermediate Bulk Container		ZU	A non-rigid container used for transport and storage of fluids and other bulk materials. The construction of the IBC container and the materials used are chosen depending on the application.
Barrel		BA	A cylindrical packaging whose bottom end is permanently fixed to the body and top end (head) is either removable or non-removable.
Banded package		X11	Something used to bind, tie, or encircle the item or its packaging to secure and maintain unit integrity.
Packed, unspecified		PUG	Packaging of the product (or products) is currently not on the list. Use this code when no suitable options are available and only while a Change Request is approved for the proper packaging type.
Wrapper		WRP	The process of enclosing all or part of an item with layers of flexible wrapping material (e.g., for an individually packed ice cream). Does not include items which are shrink-wrapped or vacuum-packed.

Name	Example	GDSN code	Description
Bag		BG	A preformed, flexible container, generally enclosed on all but one side, which forms an opening that may or may not be sealed after filling.
Envelope		EN	A predominantly flat container of flexible material having only two faces and joined at three edges to form an enclosure. The non-joined edge provides a filling opening, which may later be closed by a gummed or adhesive flap, heat seal, tie string, metal clasp, or other methods.

Table 1.1: examples and descriptions of packaging types.

Any questions? Please contact our customer support via *diy@gs1belu.org* or +32 (0) 22905775 or *fmcg-foodservice@gs1belu.org* or +32 (0) 2229 18 88.