



The GS1 Global Traceability Programme:
Helping companies implement traceability



GS1 GTC Programme in a nutshell

■ ■ ■ ■ What is the GS1 Global Traceability Programme (GS1 GTC)?

The GS1 GTC Programme supports the implementation of traceability across the supply chain both locally and globally.

The GS1 GTC Programme enables organisations to:

- assess their readiness for introducing a GS1 based traceability system assessed
- have their current system evaluated and audited in compliance with key customers' requirements, regulations, best practices and global standards.



The Initial focus is to provide the food industry with a common and understandable toolset enabling the testing and implementation of a standardized traceability language using the GS1 Global Traceability Standard. Sharing traceability information between trading partners across the extended supply chain will be simpler, more accurate and with improved efficiency.

Who can use the GS1 GTC Programme?

Essentially any stakeholder that handles goods in the supply chain: e.g. producers, manufacturers, processors, logistics service providers, transporters/carriers, retailers, wholesalers, importers/exporters, storage/deposit providers and container/packaging manufacturers in the food supply chain.

Also companies providing implementation services related to traceability: e.g. consultants, solution providers, third party logistic providers (3PLs) and others can use the GS1 GTC Programme.

Helping companies implement traceability

Major benefits of the GS1 GTC Programme

Enable any organisation to establish its actual traceability level and to be benchmarked against agreed supply chain minimum requirements and best practices for traceability.

The Programme being based on the GS1 Global Traceability Standard is technology independent. It allows companies to obtain guidance on complying with major international traceability regulations as well as traceability requirements established by the key quality standards used in the Food industry.

In general:

- Facilitate GTS adoption, i.e. the adoption of global traceability standard and best practices worldwide
- Ensure the right implementation of full supply chain traceability
- Ensure continuous conformance to the GS1 System and consistency with best practices related to supply chain efficiency
- Gives a technology independent solution for traceability

A global programme for traceability, based on global standards, will improve Global Traceability and facilitate the flow of information across the supply chain.

The GTC Implementation Path

The GS1 GTC Programme defines an Implementation Path which involves three steps:

Implementation: Action aimed at helping a company implement the Global Traceability Standard (GTS). The implementation can be done when implementing a Traceability System for the first time or can be done based on a gap analysis after an Assessment is performed.

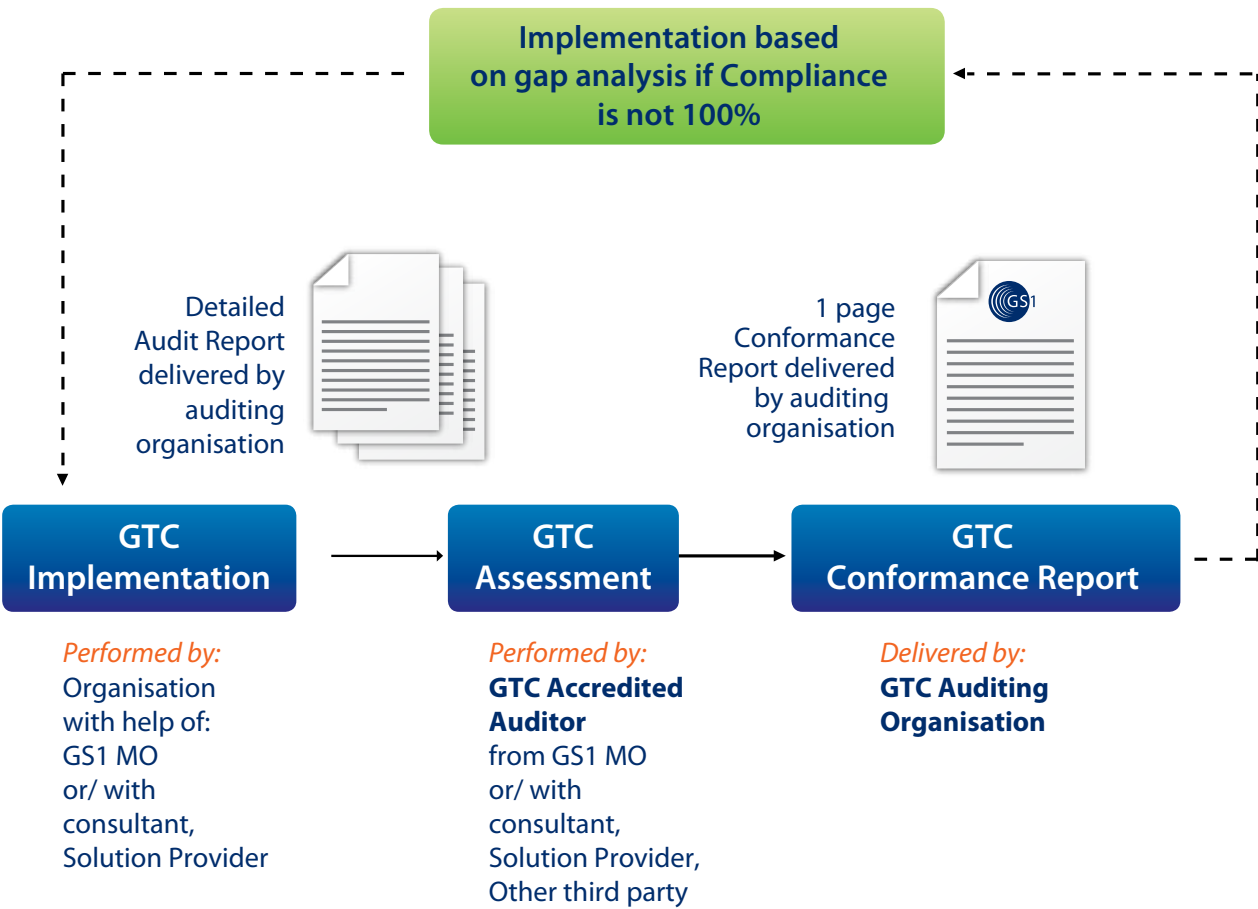
Assessment: Audit performed on a company, using the GS1 GTC Control Points & Compliance Criteria

(GTC Checklist). The Assessment must be performed by an accredited GTC Auditor according to ISO19011 “Guidelines for quality and/ or environmental management systems auditing”. Assessment can be used whether as a diagnosis to identify gaps at the beginning of a traceability implementation project or after as final check.

Report : At the end of the Assessment, the audited company receives a Conformance Report delivered by the Auditing Organisation, summarising the result against the compliance criteria (defined in GS1 GTC checklist).

GS1 GTC Programme roles

Actor/Organisation	Role / Function	Requirements
Auditor	Person performing GS1 GTC Assessments	GS1 GTC accredited, including GS1 GTC training. Can work for: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- GS1 Member Organisation (GS1 MO),- solution provider,- consultant or certification body
GTC Trainer	Person who trains and accredits GS1 GTC Auditors	Qualified by GS1 GO
GTC Auditing Organisation	Organization performing GS1 GTC assessments. Has licensing agreement with GS1 Global Office (GS1 GO).	Must have at least one accredited GTC Auditor Must have signed the licensing agreement





GS1 GTC Assessments and GS1 GTC Auditors in practice

The GS1 GTC Programme works through systematic traceability assessments using an audit schema. These assessments are carried out by accredited GS1 GTC auditors. The accredited auditor performs the traceability assessment at the organisation's facilities, using an audit scheme called "the GS1 GTC Control Points & Compliance Criteria (GS1 GTC Checklist)".



The result of this assessment is a complete report detailing the traceability level identifying the traceability gaps that the organisation should correct. The complete activity takes one week on average for a medium sized company including an on-site audit at the organisation's facilities.

The role of GTC Auditing Organisations

When a GTC Auditing Organisation has at least one accredited GS1 GTC Auditor as well as having appointed a GS1 GTC contact and signed the licensing agreement, they are in a position to start providing several services in their local markets such as:

- Support organizations with the implementation of GS1 Global Traceability Standard.
- Perform GS1 GTC Assessments
- Provide internal auditor trainings for organisations
- Promotion of the GS1 GTC Programme
- Play an active role with local food associations and regulators to increase GS1 awareness, especially in the context of Food Safety
- Inform organisations about the process for the maintenance of the standards and invite them to join the Traceability Business Requirement Group (BRG)

Requirements on becoming a GS1 accredited GTC Auditor

Any person fulfilling the GS1 GTC requirements for Auditors can be a GS1 GTC Auditor. These requirements include the following:

- participated in the GS1 GTC training course and successfully passed the GS1 GTC test after the training course
- attended the GS1 GTS training course
- shown that he/she is capable of carrying out traceability assessments (Be ISO certified, provide two assessments reports from different companies to be positively evaluated by GS1 GTC faculty of trainers or achieve a minimum 10 hours assessments of companies under the guidance of a GS1 GTC auditor)
- post-secondary school studies (minimum 3 years)
- minimum 5 years of professional experience
- proficiency in English, a good understanding of traceability and supply chain operations, and knowledge of GS1 System tools
- as a recommendation; previously attended an Internal Auditor training or ISO Auditor training.

Reason for obtaining GS1 GTC Auditor accreditation

Only GS1 GTC Auditors are entitled to perform GS1 GTC Assessments recognized globally by GS1. The GS1 GTC Auditor accreditation is a guarantee for the company being assessed, that the auditor has the required knowledge, experience and skills needed in performing the GS1 GTC Assessment, in terms of Traceability, GS1 System and supply chain experience.

Auditors will have demonstrated their knowledge and understanding of the concept of traceability and how the different GS1 Standards interact along the supply chain and how they improve the traceability information sharing.

Accredited GTC Auditors will have:

- a good understanding of the auditing principles under ISO standards and effectively prepare for, carry out, report and follow up on GTC Assessments.

- an ability to effectively assess an organizations readiness against key traceability regulations as well as related commercial requirements.
- participated in improving the implementation of the GS1 Global Traceability Standard in any organisation.



How to become an accredited GS1 GTC Auditor

Training will be offered on a regular basis in different geographic locations. The training includes the two compulsory modules: GS1 Global Traceability Standard (GTS) and GS1 GTC. The complete training takes five full days and provides all the necessary knowledge to function as a GS1 Global Traceability Auditor. It gives an essential perspective to individuals responsible for the planning and implementing Traceability Audits through the GS1 GTC Programme as well as teaching all the basic requirements included in the GS1 Global Traceability Standard. Furthermore it establishes how a professional auditor structures, plans, and executes an effective audit, to subsequently evaluate and communicate the audit findings.

After completing the training and passing the final test, as well as fulfilling all the minimum requirements established, the candidates can be accredited.

Contact GS1 Global Office (see list of contacts) to apply for accreditation.

Helping companies implement traceability

■ ■ ■ Certification and the GS1 GTC Programme

The GS1 GTC Programme provides the possibility of certification; however this is contingent on local market demand and should be consistent with existing certification schemes if a Certification Body and key stakeholders in global supply chains want to put in place a Certification scheme based on the GS1 GTC Programme and GS1 standards, the GS1 GTC Programme allows this option and the company should contact the local GS1 Member Organisation or the GS1 GTC Programme contacts (see list of contacts).

Currently the focus of the GTC Programme is on increasing awareness for the global traceability standard and to demonstrate its benefits through implementations throughout the Supply Chain - both upstream and downstream – on a global level.

Note: the GS1 GTC Conformance Report is not a certification but fulfils the goals of supporting the implementation.

■ ■ ■ What documentation and in what languages is currently available?

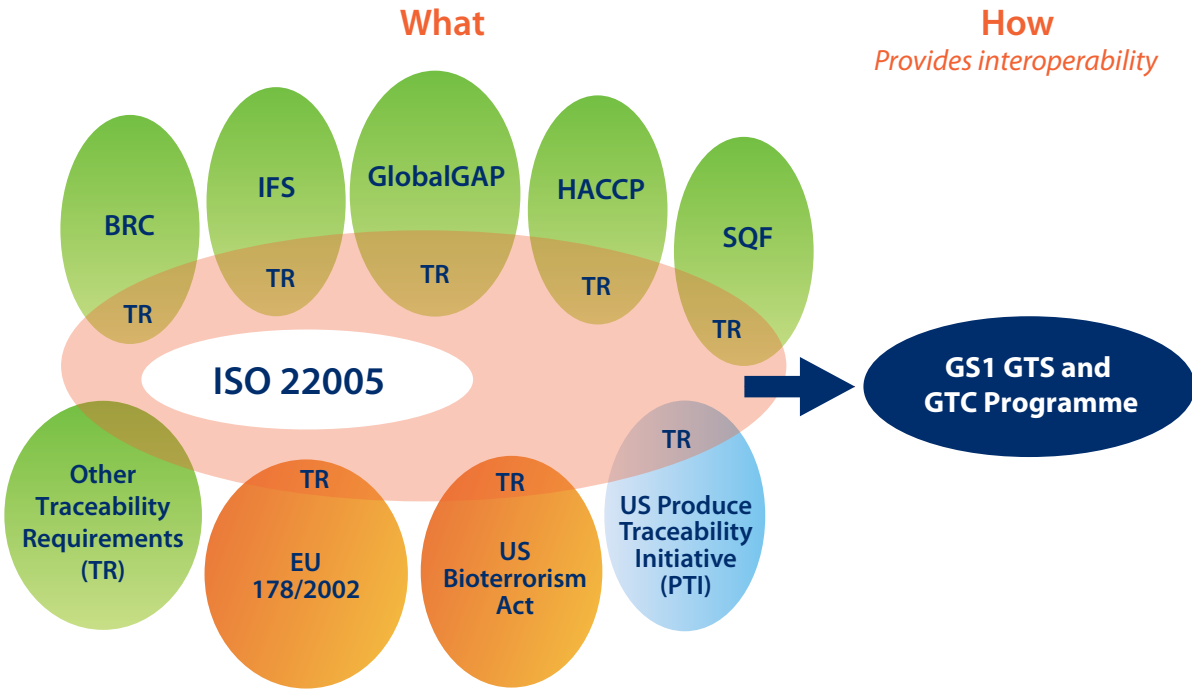
The latest version of the documentation and supporting material included in the Programme is available as of March 2010 at <http://www.gs1.org/traceability>. Initially documentation is in English only, becoming available in other languages dependant on market. It is foreseen that a French and Spanish version will be available in the near future.

What is the link between ISO 22005, Food Safety and Quality standards and GS1 GTC Programme?

The GS1 GTC Programme provides guidance to users on meeting the traceability requirements required by the highest standards of quality and food safety such as ISO 9001, ISO 22005, HACCP, BRC, IFS and GLOBALGAP. Food safety and quality standards define the “what” should be done in terms of traceability (i.e. the objectives). The GS1 GTC Programme helps companies to actually do it: it is about the “how” to do it.



GS1 in the Food Safety and Traceability landscape



TR = Traceability Requirements
The GTC program addresses the TR requirements
BRC GLOBAL STANDARD – FOOD, Issue 4, January 2005, British Retail Consortium
GLOBALGAP, “Control Points and Compliance Criteria Integrated Farm Assurance Fruit and Vegetables, Version 3.0 – 2 Sep 07”
IFS FOOD, Version 5, International Featured Standard.
ISO 9001:2000, “Quality management systems - Requirements”
ISO 22005:2007, “Traceability in feed and food Chain – General principles and basic requirements for system design and implementation”
SQF 2000 CODE, “A HACCP Supplier Assurance Code for the Food Industry, 5th Edition – Issued November 2005”, SQF Institute
GS1 GTS, GS1 Global Traceability Standard
GS1 GTC, GS1 Global Traceability Programme

Helping companies implement traceability

■ ■ ■ How is the GS1 GTC Programme maintained?

GS1 GTS and the GS1 GTC Checklist are maintained by the Traceability Business Requirement Group (BRG) according to the normal GSMP process. The GS1 Global Standards Management Process is the global forum for users to bring business needs that require standard based solutions to create a more efficient Supply Chain. Specifically, the GSMP provides a comprehensive set of methods and rules allowing industry groups to submit their needs and lead in the creation of globally agreed standards and guidelines.



The actual way to operate the GS1 GTC Assessments, GS1 GTC Auditor and Certification Body accreditations is maintained by an internal team composed of GS1 Global Office staff and representatives from GS1 MOs. It is ultimately validated through the GS1 decision processes involving the GS1 Advisory Council and the GS1 Leadership Team.

How to get involved?

Join the GS1 GTC Programme now! Contact the following persons in order to find out more about this Programme, including how to become an Accredited GS1 GTC Auditor, how to implement and test your traceability system using the GS1 Global Traceability Standard and how to become actively involved in the development and implementation of global standards.

If you are interested in becoming an accredited GS1 GTC Auditor

Jean-Marc D'Hooghe
jeanmarc.dhooghe@gs1.org

If you need more information about licensing agreements and certification

Nicholas Fergusson
nicholas.fergusson@gs1.org

If you want to participate in the Traceability Business Requirement Group (Traceability BRG)

Melanie Kudela
melanie.kudela@gs1.org

If you need more information about the GS1 GTC Programme in general

Juan Pablo Vial
juanpablo.vial@gs1.org

For Marketing of the GS1 GTC Programme

Nora Kaci
nora.kaci@gs1.org



GS1 AISBL

Blue Tower
Avenue Louise 326, b10
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
T +32 (0)2 788 78 00
F +32 (0)2 788 78 99
contactus@gs1.org

www.gs1.org

