GS1 - The global language of business

Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)

A GTIN is an identification number for products and services that may be purchased, sold, exchanged, or transferred. GTINs are used in many supply chain processes, including procurement, accounting, and sales. GTINs can be encoded in Bar Codes or RFID tags.

Global Location Number (GLN)

A GLN is a 13-digit number used to identify physical locations and legal entities. GLNs are used in many supply chain processes, including accounting, sales, and transport. Each GLN is unique and can be used to identify a company, a branch, a department, or a location.

Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC)

An SSCC is a 14-digit number used to identify pallets, crates, or containers. SSCCs are used in many supply chain processes, including transport, storage, and distribution. They can be used to identify the origin and destination of goods.

GLNs and SSCCs are closely related. Both are based on the GS1 Identification Key System. GLNs are used to identify locations and legal entities, while SSCCs are used to identify physical objects. When a product is transported, the SSCC is attached to the container, and the GLN is used to identify the company or organization responsible for the shipment.

For more information on GS1, please visit: www.GS1.org
Process Flow and points of SSCC – UCR Reference application in the international supply chain

**Exporter**
- Purchase Order received from Importer
- Products produced and containerized for transportation
- Each container is identified with individual SSCC number
- SSCC number is lodged in the delivery details of the internal commercial system
- SSCC is put on commercial documentation that accompanies goods in transportation
- SSCC advised to Importer
- Logistics Service Provider notified that the containers are ready for collection

**Logistics Service Provider**
- Bill of Lading recorded on SSCC
- Based on Forwarding Instructions, SSCC and shipment information recorded on internal traceability system
- Progress of international transportation updated in the database and communicated to Importer. SSCC number is one of the search parameters on the traceability system
- Shipment delivered at destination port

**Importer**
- Goods received – SSCC confirmed on receipt
- SSCC's of incoming shipments are cross-referenced to initial purchase order
- SSCC's cross referenced to receiving Lot/Batch numbers to ensure complete traceability from order till delivery
- The SSCC number is further used as a reference of incoming goods for the final manufacturing process or distribution
- Customs post-transactional validations run on the internal company database ensuring traceability and linkage of commercial, transport and import information

**Export Customs**
- Export goods declaration received from Exporter
- Shipment details are linked to the SSCC for statistical and post transactional activity
- Customs export validations are run
- Export Clearance granted
- Shipment leaves the export customs
- SSCC numbers of dispatched shipments are communicated by Export Customs to Import Customs
- Post transactional activity checks are performed

**Import Customs**
- SSCC number received from Export Customs
- Import Customs cargo declaration with SSCC - UCR information received
- Front end credibility checks performed
- Risk profiles run
- Trade information verified with customs information by referencing SSCC and shipment information
- Declaration processed and clearance advice issued
- Goods released
- Post-transactional checks and verification procedures performed using SSCC reference to link trader and transport data

**Logistics Service Provider**
- SSCC – UCR information sent to the export customs as part of Export declaration
- SSCC sent to Logistics Service Provider as part of Forwarding Instructions
- Containers dispatched from manufacturing location
- Improves visibility and accountability across the supply chain
- SSCC number is a single reference point for all parties involved

**Project Benefits**
- Contributes to safe and secure border protection by providing enhanced access to data via a single reference
- Contributes to supply chain security and anti-fraud measures through improved traceability
- Simplifies integration of data between export and import Customs authorities
- Enables faster Customs clearance and release of goods
- Facilitates better Customs clearance and streamlines goods movement
- Provides a single reference for enquiry throughout the entire supply chain, reducing compliance risk of trading partners

Extract from the audit report of the HM Revenue and Customs (UK) officer:
"By using the SSCC number it was very easy to trace this to the import file which contained the full details of the import. The SSCC number was stated on the majority of the key import documents and this allowed the import to be traced from either from the SSCC number, import entry number, bill of lading, and company invoice or purchase order number."