

Quick guide

GS1-128 pallet label

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Make sure your customer is satisfied with your GS1-128 pallet label

*GS1-128*The GS1-128 pallet label is used on logistic units, in other words on those units that are transported, typically boxes that are transported individually or pallets. To ensure problem-free cooperation in the supply chain, standards for information transfer must be applied and adhered to by all stakeholders, so that the information the label contains can be consistently decoded. This quick guide is a check list for constructing your GS1-128 pallet labels correctly.

This part of the pallet label is typically used for your **company logo** and **product description**.

This part of the pallet label must present **all** the data contained in the barcode in human readable text, e.g. GTIN, number, best before date, batch number and SSCC (the unique serial number of the pallet).

AI (02) indicates that the following digits state the GTIN of the pallet's content, in other words typically the GTIN of the box.

- (02) may not contain the **GTIN of the pallet or the retail unit**.
- (02) must be followed by **14 digits**. If the item number consists of 13 digits, a 0 is added as a prefix.
- If (02) is used, **(37)** must also be used.

Factory Inc.
P. Rothvej2, DK-2100 Copenhagen

Frozen Peas
48 boxes
6 packages of 500 grams

SSCC
35704368000000011

GTIN
5704368000010

Best before
31.12.2008

Count
48

Batch no.
12345XF

(15) 081231 (10) 12345XF

(02) 05704368000010 (37) 48

(00) 35704368000000011

AI (15) indicates that the following digits state the **best before date** of the retail unit.

- (15) must be followed by **6 digits**, stating the best before date as YYMMDD.

AI (10) indicates that the following digits state the **batch number**.

- (10) may be followed by **up to 20 digits** and/or letters.
- If the barcode is to contain more data after the batch no., a separator character **(FNC1)** must be inserted after the batch number

AI (37) indicates that the following digits state the **number of units contained by the pallet** – i.e. the number of units with the GTIN indicated after (02). In most cases this means the **number of boxes** on the pallet.

- (37) may be followed by **up to 8 digits**. If the number consists of less than 8 digits, **do not pad with additional zeros**.
- If the barcode is to contain more data after the number of units, a separator character **(FNC1)** must be inserted after the number of units.

AI (00) indicates that the following digits state the **Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC)**: The pallet's unique serial number.

- An SSCC code **may not be used for multiple pallets**, even if the pallets contain exactly the same products.
- The SSCC code must be placed in the last barcode, if there are multiple barcodes.

What is an AI?

An Application Identifier is a number consisting of 2-4 digits. It tells the software "behind" the barcode scanner the meaning and format of the digits/letters placed after the AI. If the wrong AI is used in connection with a certain data content, or a wrong number of digits/letters is used after the AI, the systems that decode the AIs will not interpret them correctly.

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Avoid errors on the pallet label: 12 dos and don'ts



Problems concerning the data content of the pallet label

1. The barcode type **must be GS1-128**, previously known as EAN128 or UCC/EAN128. Code 128 is a different type of barcode, and must not be used.
2. A separator character (**FNC1**) must always be inserted after a data field of variable length, if this data field is followed by additional data.
3. **Parentheses** must not be expressed in the barcode.
4. The **check digits** in GTIN and SSCC codes must be correct. Calculate control digits online at www.gs1.dk/kontrolciffer.
5. **AI (37) may not be used**, if (01) is used. ((01) indicates the unit's GTIN, e.g. the pallet's item number and not the GTIN of the pallet content.)
6. The 18 digits of the **SSCC** code must be structured as follows:
 - Digit 1 : Company controlled prefix
 - Digits 2-8 : Your company's GS1 Company Prefix
 - Digits 9-17 : Company controlled serial number
 - Digit 18 : Check digit
7. The barcode may not contain company internal information in the form of (91)-(99). (90) may only be used if explicitly agreed upon by your customer.

Problems concerning the pallet label's placement, appearance, etc.

8. A dedicated margin (also known as "**quiet zone**") devoid of lines, characters etc. must be found to the right and left of the barcode.
9. The **dark bars** of the barcode must appear clear-cut on a light background, preferably white.
10. The pallet label must be **smooth**, not creased.
11. The recommended size of the pallet label is **A5**.
12. The GS1-128 pallet label must be placed on the pallet as shown below. Identical labels must be placed on **both sides** of the pallet.

Read more about GS1 at www.gs1.org/

