The Global Language of Business



Scan4Transport Driving digital capability in the transport process



What is Scan4Transport?

Scan4Transport is a global standard for encoding transport data on a Logistics Label. The standard supports companies across the transport process including first mile, sortation and last mile activities and enables them to keep pace with the growing needs of their customers.

How does it work?

The Scan4Transport standard allows the capture of the core data required to complete a transport task by scanning a 2D barcode on a standards-based transport label.

Transport data including address information, authority to leave, etc is encoded into a 2D barcode symbol (a GS1 DataMatrix or GS1 QR-code) on the transport label to facilitate the transport of all sorts of freight including satchels, cartons and pallets.

What is a 2D barcode?

2D barcodes are a type of barcode that can have large amounts of data embedded within. One type of 2D barcode is the GS1 DataMatrix. 2D barcodes are particularly useful for storing information relevant to the transport process (e.g. Ship to Address, Dangerous Goods Information, Weight) as it enables the information to be available in both on-line and off-line environments by simply scanning the barcode. The new Application Identifiers released are part of this standard. They unambiguously indicate the meaning of the data element following it. Enabling the data to be encoded in a globally standard manner that all stakeholders can understand.



Transport label with 2D barcode (Data Embedded barcode)



Why would we use it?

By using the standards developed for the transport label, the following is possible:

- Improved first and last mile processes through the capture of essential information relating to the transport task from the barcode on the transport label (e.g. when the freight is handled and scanned before the electronic instructions have been received)
- Enhanced sortation through the capture of granular address information including street from the barcode on the transport label
- Visibility of transport task requirements even if the remote IT systems are unavailable for look- up
- Improved efficiency and interoperability across industry through a standard label across the entire supply chain
- All this leads to smoother processes and greater customer satisfaction

Background on this standard

A global industry workgroup , including members from Australian transport companies AusPost, DHL and VicTas Freight Express, developed new Application Identifiers (AI). These identifiers are for encoding transport data on the logistics label. They also developed a new Implementation Guideline which leverages the GS1 Digital Link standard within a 2D barcode on the logistics label. These standards focus on improving efficiency, interoperability and visibility across the transport process, particularly in last mile activities.

The group had broad representation and support from shippers, logistic service providers, solution providers and GS1 member organisations from more than 22 countries around the world. It promises to bring improved efficiencies across the sector.

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