



The Global Language of Business

# Exchanging Traceability Data with EPCIS

---

Craig Alan Repec

Senior Manager, Supply Chain Visibility, EPCIS & RFID

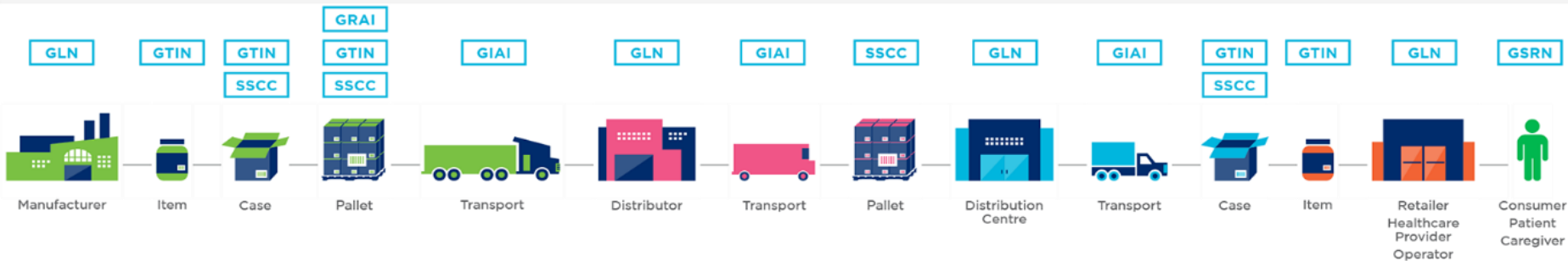
GS1

November 2018



## Identify: GS1 Standards for Identification

GLN Global Location Number    GTIN Global Trade Item Number    SSCC Serial Shipping Container Code    GRAI Global Returnable Asset Identifier    GIAI Global Individual Asset Identifier    GSRN Global Service Relation Number



## Capture: GS1 Standards for Barcodes & EPC/RFID

### GS1 Barcodes

### GS1 EPC/RFID



## Share: GS1 Standards for Data Exchange

**Master Data** Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN)    **Transactional Data** eCom (EDI)    **Event Data** EPC Information Services (EPCIS)



# EPCIS: a GS1 "Share" standard



Identify

**GS1 Standards for Identification**

**Company & Location**

- Global Location Number (GLN)

**Product**

- Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)
- Serialised Global Trade Item Number (SGTIN)

**Logistics & Shipping**

- Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC)
- Global Shipment Identification Number (GSIN)
- Global Identification Number for Consignment (GINC)

**Assets**

- Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI)
- Global Returnable Asset Identifier (GRAI)

**Services & More**

- Global Service Relation Number (GSRN)
- Global Document Type Identifier (GDTI)
- Global Coupon Number (GCN)



Capture

**GS1 Standards for Barcodes**

**GS1 Barcodes**

EAN/UPC



9 501101 021037

ITF-14



GS1 DataMatrix



GS1 QR Code



**GS1 EPC/RFID**

Electronic Product Code (EPC) RFID



EPC HF Gen 2



EPC UHF Gen 2



Share

**GS1 Standards for Data Exchange**

**Master Data**

- Global Data Synchronisation Network (GDSN)

**Transactional Data**

- eCom (EDI): EANCOM, GS1 XML

**Event Data**

- EPC Information Services (EPCIS)

EPCIS

CBV



# EPCIS, a GS1 and ISO open standard


---

- Helps **share visibility data** across & **between enterprises**
- Defines technical interfaces & framework data model
- Enabler for traceability solutions & services
- GS1 Keys identify the “what” & “where” of visibility events...
  - ...encoded as data-carrier neutral EPCs
  - ...even when used with GS1 barcodes (instead of RFID)
- published as ISO/IEC 19987



# Core Business Vocabulary (CBV)

---

- companion standard to EPCIS
- defines specific data values to populate EPCIS data model
- ensures a common understanding of data semantics
- anchors EPCIS events to business process context
- **critical to interoperability of EPCIS implementations**
- published as ISO/IEC 19988 

# EPCIS enables supply chain visibility

---



- **Tracking**

*Where are the products we shipped?*

- **Tracing**

*Where did this batch of products come from?*

- **Chain of Custody (CoC) / Chain of Ownership (CoO)**

*Which parties had custody or ownership of these products?*

- **Inventory Management / Inventory Maintenance**

*How many units are in stock? When does my available inventory expire?*

- **Recall**

*Find all Product XYZ shipped from facility 133 on 9 November 2018...*

# The 4 data dimensions of an EPCIS event

---

- **What** objects are the subject of event?  
*Individual objects (GTIN + Serial Number = SGTIN)*
- **When** did this event take place?  
*Date, time, time zone*
- **Where** did this occur and where are the objects thereafter?  
*GLN of physical location (expressed as an SGLN in EPCIS)*
- **Why** did this event take place?  
*Business step (e.g. "Shipping") and Disposition (e.g. "in transit")*



## “What”

---

- Specifies what objects participated in the event
- EPCIS allows for two kinds of object identification:
  - Instance-level  
(each identifier is unique to a single object)
  - Class-level  
(multiple objects carry the same identifier)





# Batch/Lot vs. Serialized Visibility



Feature	GTIN	GTIN + Lot	GTIN + Serial
Low Precision Identification	✓		
Medium Precision Identification		✓	
High Precision Identification			✓
Additional data needs to be physically marked		✓	✓
Serialization required			✓
Traceable item exist in multiple locations at the same time	✓	✓	
Traceable item exist only at one locations at the same time			✓
Product Recall	All units of a given GTIN	All units of a given GTIN + Lot	Only specific units with matching GTIN + Serial
Enables anti counterfeit measures			✓
Enables to monitor products with finite shelf life		✓	✓

# EPCIS event dimensions

## “When”

---

- Date of event  
*example: 2018-11-19*
- Time of event  
*example: 23:47:00*
- Time zone in effect  
*example: UTC +10:30*  
*(that's 08:17 in New Jersey, UTC -05:00)*



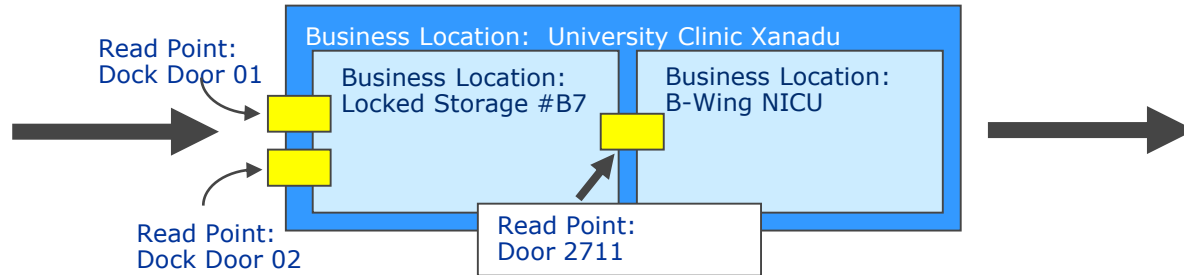
## “Where”

- **Read Point**

specific place where an event took place, identified by GLN

- **Business Location**

whereabouts of the object after the event, identified by GLN



*Read Points are often **doors**.*

*Business Locations are often **rooms**.*

# EPCIS event dimensions

## “Why”

---

### Business Step

- Business process context of event  
*example: Commissioning, Packing, Shipping, Unpacking*

### Disposition

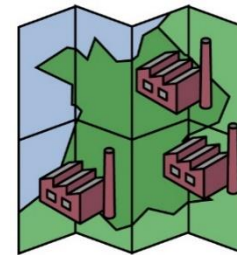
- Status of object subsequent to event  
*example: active, in\_transit, sold, expired, recalled*

### Business Transaction

- Link to transaction information

### Source/Destination

- Transfer of ownership or possession



# EPCIS event types

---

## **Object Event**

- Observation of or assertion about objects

## **Aggregation Event**

- Association between containing/contained objects

## **Transaction Event**

- Association of objects to business transactions

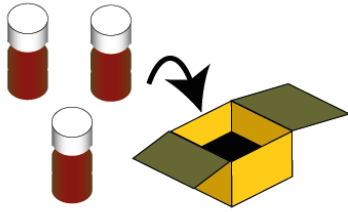
## **Transformation Event**

- Objects consumed as inputs, produced as outputs

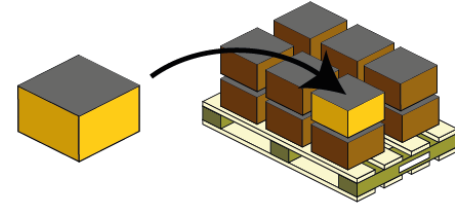
# EPCIS Aggregation Event

## Parent-Child logistical hierarchy

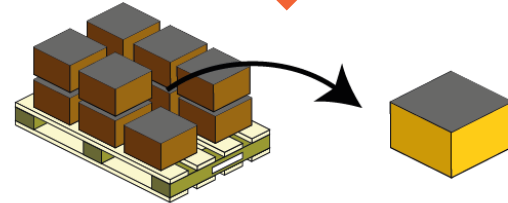
---



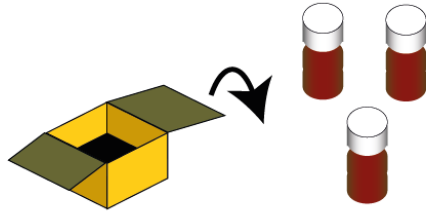
**Aggregation of items into a case**



**Aggregation of cases onto a pallet**



**Disaggregation of cases from a pallet**



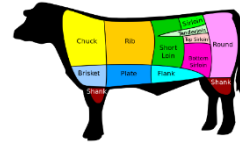
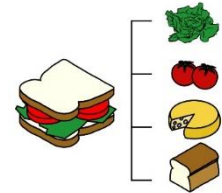
**Disaggregation of items from a case**



# EPCIS event types

## Transformation Event

- One or more objects are an input into a process
- This process irreversibly changes input object(s)
- Output has a new identity and characteristics
- Many to one
  - *Lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, bread -> sandwich*
- One to many
  - *Cow -> sides / cuts of beef*
- Many to many
  - *Multiple cuts of beef -> multiple packages of ground beef*



# EPCIS Service Layer

---

The EPCIS Service Layer defines three interfaces:

- EPCIS Capture Interface
- EPCIS Query Control Interface
- EPCIS Query Callback Interface



# EPCIS Query Interfaces

---

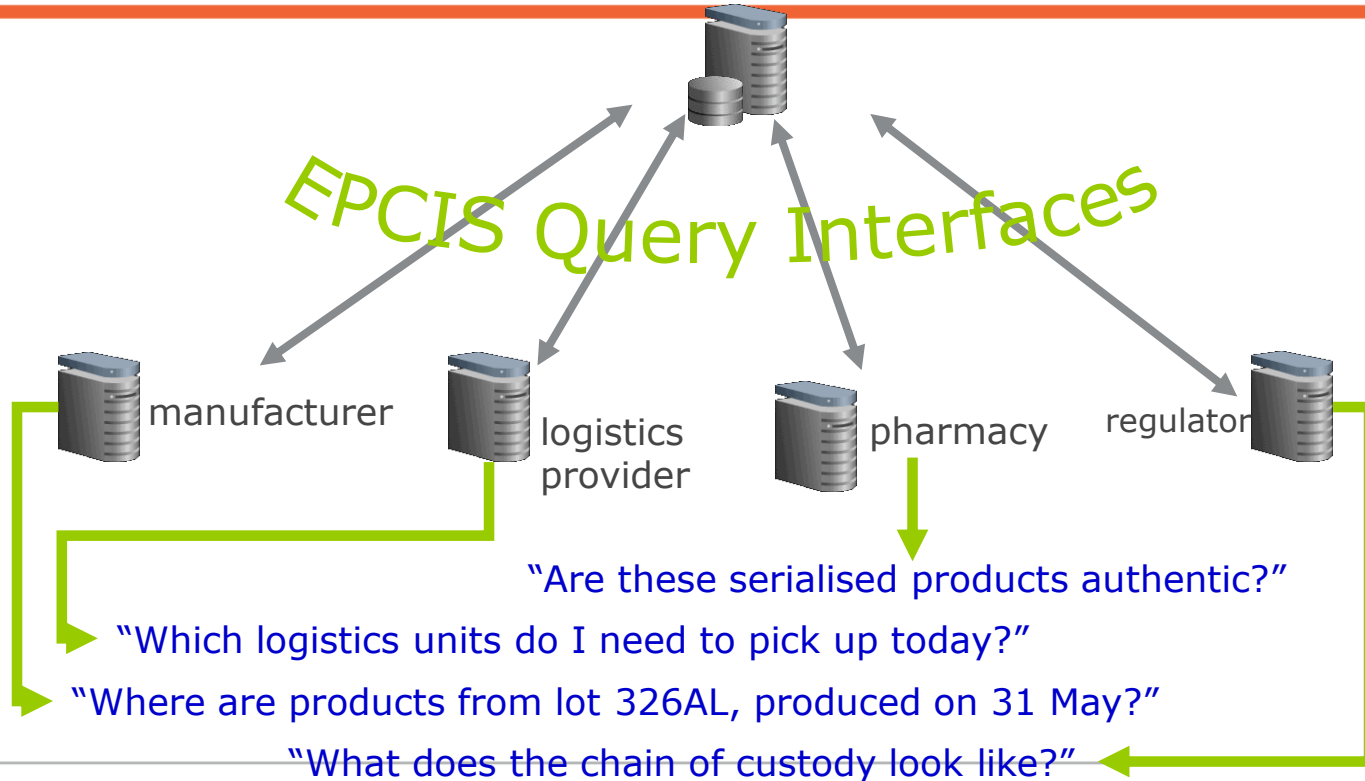
## EPCIS Query Control Interface

- In “**on-demand**” mode, a client makes a request and receives a response immediately
- In “**standing request**” or mode, a client establishes a **subscription** for a periodic query

## EPCIS Query Callback Interface

- “pushes” results each time a periodic query is executed
- can also be used to deliver information in real-time, immediately upon capture, **bypassing** the intermediate repository

# Leveraging the EPCIS Query Interfaces



# Visibility applications enabled by EPCIS

---

- Which parties have had contact with my shipment?
- When will the new products be delivered?
- (When) was my shipment received by the recipient?
- Where were products produced on July 11th shipped to?
- Which equipment is located where within a given facility?



# EPCIS implementations 2018 and beyond

---

- Food / Fresh Produce Packaging and Distribution
- Fish Packaging and Distribution
- Rolling Stock Visibility in Rail
- Maintenance, Repair & Overhaul (MRO) in Rail
- Maritime / Port Planning
- Hospital procedures / Bedside treatment / OR
- **Pharmaceutical** chain-of-custody



# USA – Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)



**Packaging level:** Saleable units and homogeneous cases

**Data elements:** NTIN, expiry date, lot/batch, serial number

**Data carrier:** DataMatrix

**Deadlines 2017:** Serialisation by manufacturers & repackagers

2019: Verification of saleable returns

2023: **Full traceability** back to manufacturer

US FDA draft guidance (Nov 2014) names **EPCIS** as a means of interoperably exchanging pharmaceutical traceability data

# GS1 Standards for DSCSA & Traceability

GS1 US Rx Guideline [www.GS1US.org/RxGuideline](http://www.GS1US.org/RxGuideline)

---

- Describes how GS1 Standards can best be applied to pharmaceutical supply chain business processes to support traceability
- Supports collaborative supply chain traceability solutions
- Participation from over 50 pharmaceutical supply chain organisations
- Updated as necessary per requirements & industry feedback
  - V 1.0 (2012): satisfy California Pedigree regulations
  - V 1.1 (2014): align with DCSCA lot-level requirements
  - **V 1.2 (2016)**: align with DSCSA **item-level** requirements



# EPCIS for Serialized Item-Level Traceability

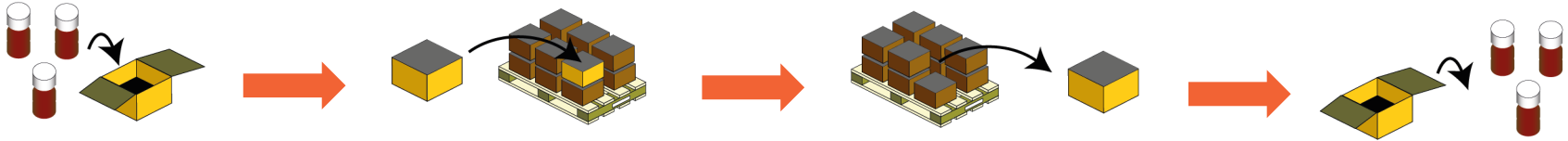
---

- Events are captured at instance-level (GTIN + Serial, SSCC)
- **Commissioning** events enable validation of serial numbers
- DSCSA CoO transaction info integrated in **Shipping** event
- Events comprise Transaction Information (TI), Transaction History (TH)
- Transaction Statement (TS) is included in the EPCIS header
- Single XML document containing all DSCSA-required information
- **Receiving, Dispensing, Decommissioning** events
  - record product lifecycle beyond DSCSA compliance
- **Packing & Unpacking** events record packaging hierarchy
  - **Aggregation** of item -> case -> pallet

# Aggregation

## Leveraging the EPCIS Aggregation Event

---



Aggregation of items into a case

Aggregation of cases onto a pallet

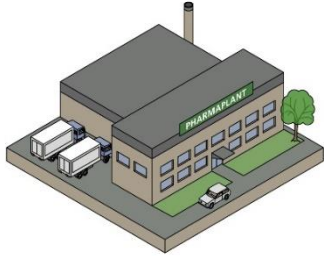
Disaggregation of cases from a pallet

Disaggregation of items from a case

- Parent-Child logistical hierarchy
- Applied to a containing object and a set of contained objects
- Enables the practice of **inference**
- ADD an Aggregation (children aggregated to parent)
- OBSERVE an Aggregation (may be incomplete)
- DELETE an Aggregation (removal of subset or all children)



# EPCIS events captured and shared by . . .



Party at beginning of the supply chain (e.g., manufacturer)

- Commissioning
- **Packing**
- Shipping



Intermediate parties (e.g., distributor)

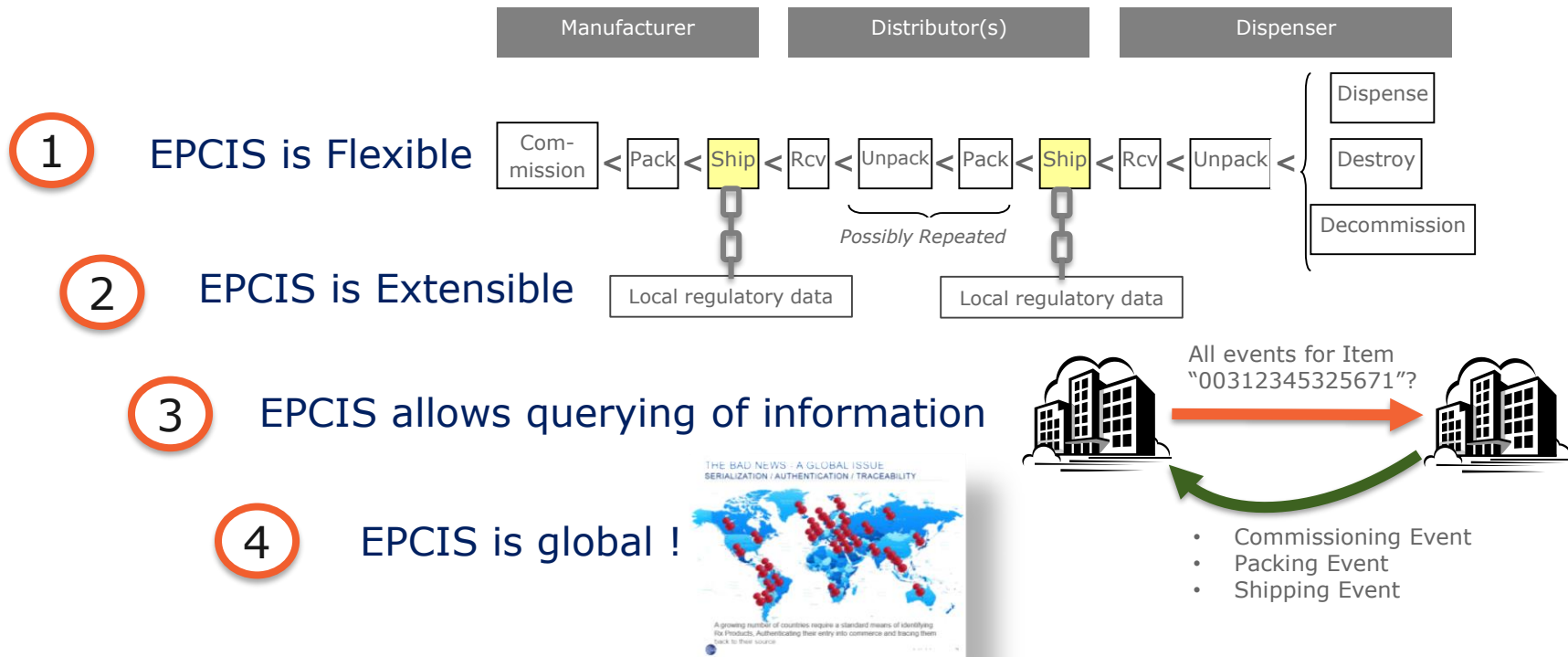
- Receiving
- **Unpacking**
- **Packing**
- Shipping



Party at end of chain (e.g., pharmacy)

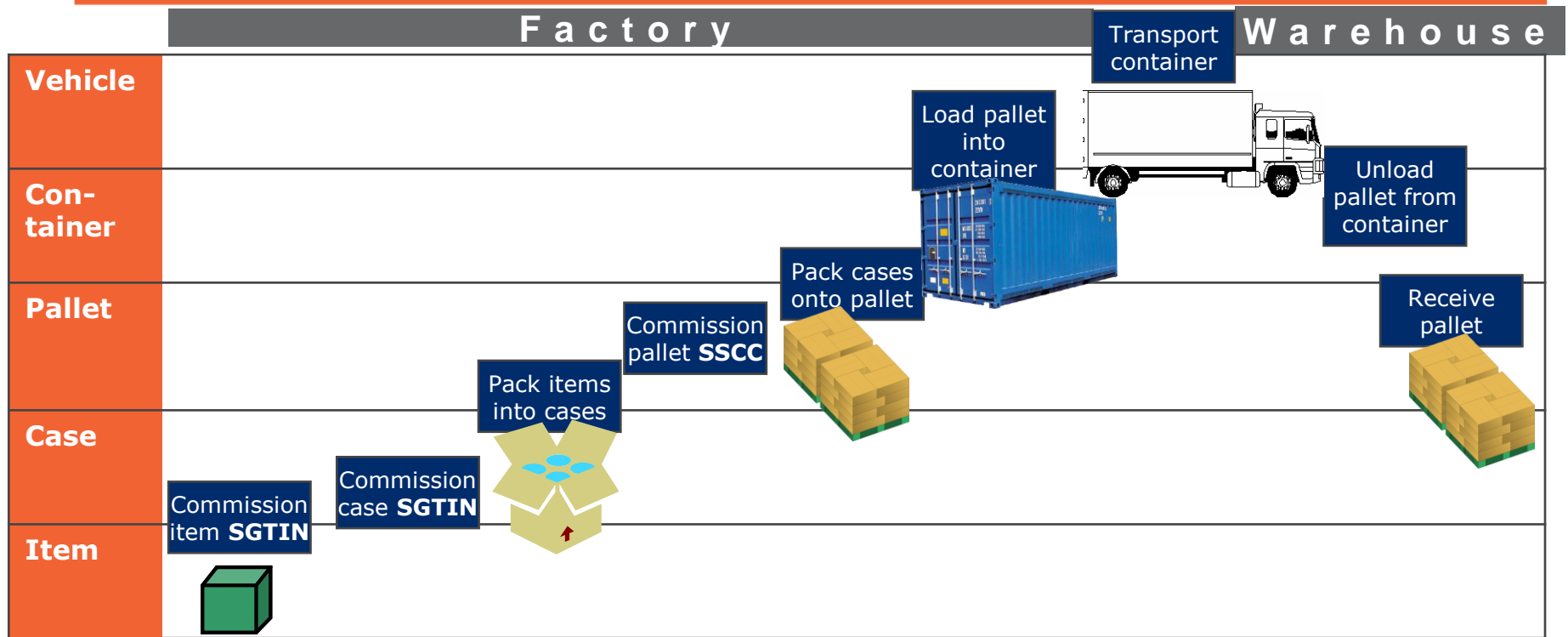
- Receiving
- **Unpacking**
- Dispensing
- Decommissioning

# Why use EPCIS-based traceability systems?



# Process Flow Example

## Designing a Visibility System using EPCIS



# Designing a visibility system using EPCIS

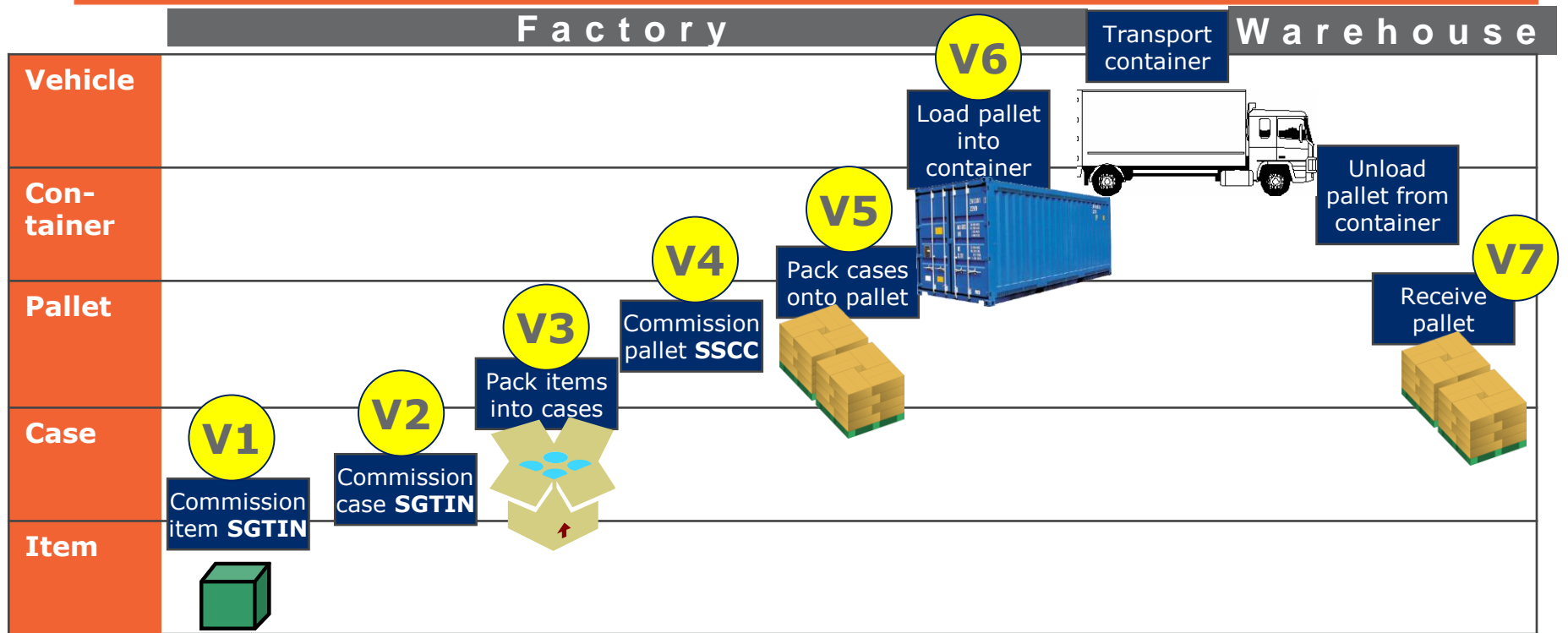
Implementation Guideline [http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS\\_Guideline.pdf](http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS_Guideline.pdf)

---

1. Collect visibility goals and requirements
2. Document business process flows
3. Break each process flow into series of discrete steps

# Process Flow Example

## Designing a Visibility System using EPCIS



# Designing a visibility system using EPCIS

Implementation Guideline [http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS\\_Guideline.pdf](http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS_Guideline.pdf)

---

1. Collect visibility goals and requirements
2. Document business process flows
3. Break each process flow into series of discrete steps
4. Decide which business steps require visibility events
- 5. Model completion of each step as a visibility event**
- 6. Decide which data to include in the visibility event**

What info does  
the business  
application  
need?

# Designing a visibility system using EPCIS

Implementation Guideline [http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS\\_Guideline.pdf](http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS_Guideline.pdf)

---

1. Collect visibility goals and requirements
2. Document business process flows
3. Break each process flow into series of discrete steps
4. Decide which business steps require visibility events
5. Model completion of each step as a visibility event
6. Decide which data to include in the visibility event
7. Determine vocabularies to populate each data field
- 8. Document visibility events in a visibility matrix**

# Visibility Data Matrix

## Designing a Visibility System using EPCIS

		Event V1	Event V3	Event V5	Event V6
		Commission items	Pack items into case	Pack cases onto pallet	Ship pallet
<b>What</b>	<b>Identifiers</b>	GTIN & Serial ( <b>SGTIN</b> ) of item	<b>SGTINs</b> of items into <b>SGTIN</b> of case	<b>SGTINs</b> of cases into <b>SSCC</b> of pallet	<b>SSCC</b> of pallet
<b>When</b>	<b>Timestamp</b>	24 Sept 2018, 11:27 CEST	24 Sept 2018, 14:09 CEST	25 Sept 2018, 10:24 CEST	25 Sept 2018, 15:19 CEST
<b>Where</b>	<b>Location</b>	packaging line 47	A-frame 21	palletiser 2	dock door 11
<b>Why</b>	<b>Business Step</b>	<b>Commissioning</b>	<b>Packing</b>	<b>Packing</b>	<b>Shipping</b>



# Why align with EPCIS?

---

- EPCIS provides a standardised way of exchanging and requesting traceability event data in a way that enables the business context to be communicated
- EPCIS is an open standard supported by an increasing number of implementations and software products
- EPCIS and its companion Core Business Vocabulary (CBV) are designed to be applicable across multiple industry sectors
- EPCIS and CBV are recognized as ISO/IEC standards
  - EPCIS = ISO/IEC 19987
  - CBV = ISO/IEC 19988



# What is EPCIS ?

---

EPCIS is . . .

- an open GS1 & ISO technical standard
- an enabler for traceability solutions & services
- data-carrier-neutral, suited to GS1 DataMatrix

*EPCIS is not . . .*

- an out-of the box solution
- a standalone answer to visibility issues

**Serialization & event-based visibility** will fundamentally change supply chain precision... **EPCIS will support this!**



# Resources: GS1 Standards & Guidelines

---

- EPCIS & CBV  
[www.gs1.org/epcis](http://www.gs1.org/epcis)
- EPCIS & CBV Implementation Guideline  
[www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS\\_Guideline.pdf](http://www.gs1.org/docs/epc/EPCIS_Guideline.pdf)
- EPC Tag Data Standard (TDS)  
[www.gs1.org/epc/tag-data-standard](http://www.gs1.org/epc/tag-data-standard)
- GS1 US DSCSA Guideline  
[www.gs1us.org/RxGuideline](http://www.gs1us.org/RxGuideline)

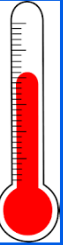
# EPCIS & CBV 2.0 – under development

[www.gs1.org/standards/development-work-groups#EPCISCBV](http://www.gs1.org/standards/development-work-groups#EPCISCBV)

---

- Addition of **JSON(-LD)** syntax to EPCIS
- Addition of **REST** binding support to EPCIS
- Support for **sensor data** in EPCIS events
- Inclusion of **party certification information** in EPCIS data
- General overhaul of CBV as **Comprehensive** Business Vocabulary

WHAT: urn:epc:id:sgtin:1234567.011111.mw133  
WHEN: 2018-02-12 11:11 CET  
WHERE: geo:52.313159,4.851332;u=50  
**WHY: Temperature Excursion**  
**SENSOR TYPE: Temperature**  
**TEMPERATURE: 42.0 C**



# For further info on event-based visibility with EPCIS...

---



## **Craig Alan Repec**

GS1 Global Office

Senior Manager

Supply Chain Visibility, EPCIS & RFID

+32 2 788 78 16

[craig.alan.repec@gs1.org](mailto:craig.alan.repec@gs1.org)