What is Scan4Transport?

GS1's innovative Scan4Transport logistics label standard is set to streamline supply chains and enhance customer satisfaction.

As global supply chains continue to evolve, businesses are constantly seeking ways to improve efficiency and meet the growing demands of their customers. To address these challenges, GS1 has introduced Scan4Transport, a game-changing standard for encoding transport data on logistics labels. This new standard promises to revolutionise the transportation process by streamlining first mile, sortation, and last mile activities, and offering enhanced visibility and interoperability across the entire supply chain.

A Global Standard for Encoding Transport Data

Developed by a global industry workgroup, Scan4Transport is a standard that allows companies to encode transport data on a logistics label using a 2D barcode. This technology enables the capture of core data required to complete a transport task – such as address information and authority to leave – by simply scanning the barcode. The standard is designed to facilitate the transport of various types of freight, including satchels, cartons, and pallets.

Harnessing the Power of 2D Barcodes

2D barcodes, such as QR Codes, can store large amounts of data, making them ideal for encoding transport-related information. By embedding data relevant to the transport process (e.g., Ship to Address, Dangerous Goods Information, Weight) within a 2D barcode, the information becomes accessible in both online and offline environments. The new Application Identifiers (AI) released as part of the Scan4Transport standard unambiguously indicate the meaning of the data element following it, enabling stakeholders to encode and understand the data in a globally standardised manner.

Advantages of Scan4Transport

By adopting the Scan4Transport standard, businesses can benefit from:

- Improved first and last mile processes by capturing essential information relating to the transport task from the barcode on the logistics label (e.g., before the electronic instructions have been received)

- Enhanced sortation through the capture of granular address information, including street, from the barcode on the logistics label;

- Visibility of transport task requirements even if remote IT systems are unavailable for look-up;

- Improved efficiency and interoperability across industry through a standard label across the entire supply chain; and

- Smoother processes and greater customer satisfaction.

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Global Collaboration for a Brighter Future

The Scan4Transport standard was developed by a diverse group of industry representatives, including Australian transport companies AusPost, DHL, and VicTas Freight Express. The workgroup also had support from shippers, logistic service providers, solution providers, and GS1 member organisations from more than 22 countries worldwide. This collaborative effort has resulted in a new Implementation Guideline and pilot report which leverages the GS1 Digital Link standard within a 2D barcode on the logistics label, focusing on improving efficiency, interoperability, and visibility across the transport process, particularly in last mile activities.

With the introduction of Scan4Transport, GS1 is once again at the forefront of supply chain innovation. By embracing this new standard, businesses can streamline their transportation processes, enhance efficiency, and ultimately satisfy the ever-growing demands of their customers. As the logistics industry continues to evolve, Scan4Transport will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of global supply chains.

Implementing Scan4Transport

Now is the right time to get moving on implementing the Scan4Transport standard, says Michiel Ruighaver, Senior Account Manager – Freight, Logistics & Industrial Sectors, at GS1.

"The next time a shipper or logistic service provider needs to set up a new label, discuss the possibility of using the Scan4Transport label format," says Michiel. "Scan4Transport enables freight to talk as it's a standardised label format, not a proprietary format."

He adds that there are plenty of solutions providers ready to help businesses along the journey.

"Implementing the Scan4Transport standards is becoming easier every day, with innovative solution providers like Avery Dennison, BarTender, Leopard Systems, TransVirtual, and Skywire including the standards in their solutions 'out-of-the-box'. Simply contact these solution providers to discuss your requirements and they will get you up and running quickly."

For more information on GS1 Australia, click [here](#)*.*