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# The Identification of Carpeting with the GS1 Numbering Standard

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v. 2.1

**INTERIOR TEXTILES SECTOR**

**30 June 2001 (update 2007)**

## 1. Scope of this document<sup>1</sup>

In this document, the various ways to number all forms of carpets are described. It has been devised for the EDI/EANCOM® project of the Belgian Interior Textiles sector. This project is based on the 1997 version of the EANCOM® standard for EDI, itself based on the D.96A directory of EDIFACT.

This document is a result of the combined efforts of the “Working Group Interior Textiles” set up by Febeltex (the Belgian Textile Federation), Division Interior Textiles and consisting of GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg (for the technical aspects of the GS1 standards) and the following companies: Associated Weavers Europe, Balta Group, Carpet-land, Louis de Poortere Carpets, Nelca, Osta Carpets, Tapis Saint-Maclou (France).

All User Profiles developed by this Working Group (DESADV, IFCSUM, IFTSTA, INVOIC, ORDERS, and subsequent ones) must be used in combination with this basic document.

## 2. Terminology / Definitions

There are various ways in which to make a distinction between different types of carpeting<sup>2</sup>: according to the construction (with or without pile), to the raw materials used (wool, polyamide, polypropylene, viscose, etc.), to the production process (woven, tufted, felt, flocked, knotted, etc.), and so on.

For the purpose of the GS1 article numbering, we focus on the different forms (5 main categories) of the carpet. Those are listed in the table below:

English	Dutch	French	German
<b>roll</b>	rol	rouleau	Rolle
<b>Carpet string (runner)</b>	loper	passage	Läufer
<b>cutlength</b>	coupe, snijding	coupe	Coupon (Schnitt)
<b>rug/tile</b>	karpel/tegel; tapijt	tapis/dalle	Teppich/Teppichfliese
<b>sample</b>	staal	échantillon	Muster

**roll** = carpet with a fixed, predefined width, and a length that can vary

(In general, all other forms of carpeting are produced from a roll, i.e. by cutting.)

**carpet string (runner)** = in essence a small roll, i.e. with a smaller width

The reason this product type exists, is purely logistic: it could equally well be described and offered as just another type of roll (with a smaller width).

(In general, a runner is produced by cutting a roll into 2 or more smaller rolls lengthwise. It is mainly used to cover staircases.)

<sup>1</sup> For a more elaborated description of the correct numbering of products, we refer to the brochure “Het correcte gebruik van de GTIN regels”/“L'utilisation correcte des règles GTIN”, which are part of the IFAK (ICODIF-Febeltex Ambassador Kit) cd-rom or can be obtained on request at GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg.

<sup>2</sup> Carpeting = material for carpets (Oxford English Dictionary).

**cutlength** = carpet with no predefined width or length

(As the name indicates, a cutlength will be cut from a roll. The dimensions of the width will therefore be limited to the standard width of the manufacturer's rolls, i.e. usually 4 or 5 metres. This also means that a cutlength with the same width as a standard roll, will be obtained by cutting a certain length off the roll. For smaller widths, a second cutting will be necessary.)

**rug** = generally a carpet with fixed dimensions (typically meant to be laid on a surface, without fitting)

(Rugs with standardized dimensions exist both in tufted and woven form. Only tufted rugs can be made to order, with the customer specifying the measures.)

**sample** = carpet that is provided to a customer for introduction's sake

(Two different forms of samples can be distinguished.

A '**pure sample**' is just a piece of specific carpet, for which the customer specifies both length and width.

A '**sample book**' is a standard collection of different samples, bound together.)

It is obvious that these definitions are open to interpretation, e.g. what company A considers to be a cutlength, can be regarded as a roll by company B. Nevertheless, as will be indicated further in this document, this will not result in different ways of numbering.

We can summarize the essence of these definitions through the dimensions length and width, as is done in the following table:

('fixed' = this dimension is known by both partners (customer and supplier)

'variable' = this dimension must be specified in the customer's order)

item		width	length	NTA <sup>3</sup>	GTIN <sup>4</sup>
<b>Base (raw) material</b>	<i>generic</i>	non existent	non existent	CT00	(GTIN-13)
<b>roll</b>	<i>generic</i>	fixed	Variable	CT01	GTIN-14
	<i>standard</i>	fixed	fixed	CT02	GTIN-13
<b>runner</b>	<i>generic</i>	fixed	Variable	CT03	GTIN-14
	<i>standard</i>	fixed	fixed	CT04	GTIN-13
<b>cutlength</b>		variable	variable	CT05	GTIN-14
<b>rug</b>	<i>generic</i>	variable	Variable	CT06	GTIN-14
	<i>standard</i>	fixed	fixed	CT07	GTIN-13
<b>sample</b>	<i>Pure/generic</i>	variable	Variable	CT08	GTIN-14
	<i>book</i>	fixed	fixed	CR09	GTIN-13

<sup>3</sup> NTA: **N**ational **T**rade **A**gency, hence code value assigned by *Febeltex*.

How to use the code values is described in a further section.

<sup>4</sup> According to the GS1 numbering principles, a standardized product can also be identified by a GTIN-14, provided it is a higher packaging level of a standardized item, which accordingly is identified with a GTIN-13. See the 'Numbering Principles' section as well.

Remarks :

- It is very well possible that two forms of carpeting have exactly the same dimensions. Although in such a case it is objectively impossible to distinguish between these forms, they are treated as different products, as they are obtained in other ways and via other processes. Normally, it is up to the customer to decide about the type of carpet he wants. E.g.: if a manufacturer produces rolls of 4 metres standard width, a carpet of 4 by 6 metres could just as well be ordered as a roll or as a cutlength, although the price may differ.
- Except for woven rugs, carpeting is always produced in rolls. The width is therefore a fixed dimension in the carpet production process. Very short rolls can thus have a length inferior to the width of the roll, even though linguistically spoken this seems contradictory.

**3. Numbering Principle**

The essence of the GS1 numbering system is *that each traded form of carpet is attributed a different GTIN (Global Trade Item Number)*.

If this traded form of carpet is completely fixed, i.e. all items produced are identical, the GTIN will be GTIN-13.

For variable measure items the GTIN will be a GTIN-14.

The rationale behind this principle is that it must be possible to distinguish between all traded forms for invoicing purposes.

The GTIN-14 for an occurrence of the generic article will always be based on the GTIN-13 of the standard product. Their structures are as follows:

	<b>Indicator</b>	<b>GS1 Identification</b>	<b>Check digit</b>
GTIN-13	n/a	N <sub>1</sub> N <sub>2</sub> N <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> N <sub>5</sub> N <sub>6</sub> N <sub>7</sub> N <sub>8</sub> N <sub>9</sub> N <sub>10</sub> N <sub>11</sub> N <sub>12</sub>	C <sub>1</sub>
GTIN-14	<b>9</b>	N <sub>1</sub> N <sub>2</sub> N <sub>3</sub> N <sub>4</sub> N <sub>5</sub> N <sub>6</sub> N <sub>7</sub> N <sub>8</sub> N <sub>9</sub> N <sub>10</sub> N <sub>11</sub> N <sub>12</sub>	C <sub>2</sub>

For the proposed division into 5 categories, this results in each category being attributed its proper GTIN, as explained below:

- **Roll & Carpet String (Runner):**

According to GS1 numbering regulations, GTINs should be assigned to basic items, including as many dimensions as are produced in a standard way.

Both rolls and runners are produced as (some kind of) standard rolls. As a matter of fact, for a specific type (quality) of carpeting, the production process will always generate rolls having approximately the same length, e.g. between 25 and 30 metres. Producing longer or shorter rolls requires the machine to be adjusted.

According to the GS1 numbering logic, such *'standard' rolls are regarded as fixed products and should get a GTIN-13* — even though their exact length is not (and cannot be) known in advance, due to production tolerances.

Such products must be ordered by their GTIN. If required, the exact length can be specified by the manufacturer in an ORDRSP message.

*(This approach assumes that the client knows the type(s) of roll on offer, and its (their) inherent approximate length. Logically, such information has been forwarded by the manufacturer via a PRICAT message. As the customer is aware of this, he needs only order a roll, without further specifications whatsoever.)*

On the other hand, it is common business practice to order rolls/runners of a specified length or of a specified minimum length. In this case, *the generic product must get a GTIN-14* that can then be ordered. The amount needed (exactly X metres; at least Y metres) will be detailed in the subsequent *MEA* segment (#0970<sup>5</sup>).

▪ **Cutlength:**

*The generic product gets a GTIN -14.*

This is the product (number) that will be ordered, and the required dimensions (length as well as width) shall be specified when placing the order.

▪ **Rug:**

- generic product:

*Gets a GTIN-14.* This is the product (number) that will be ordered, and the required dimensions (length as well as width) shall be specified when placing the order.

- standardized:

*Each type gets a different GTIN-13.*

▪ **Sample:**

- 'pure sample':

*Gets a GTIN-14.* The required dimensions (both length and width) shall be specified when placing the order. A 'pure sample' thus is treated exactly the same way as a cutlength.

- 'sample book':

Is regarded as a specific article, and therefore *each type of 'sample book' gets a different GTIN-13.*

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<sup>5</sup> Internal IFAK segment number ; corresponds to segment #42 in the EANCOM® 1997 Manual.

## Remarks

### Roll pattern :

According to the basic GS1 numbering principle, as many parameters (variables, characteristics) of an article as possible should be fixed. These characteristics are defined beforehand by the manufacturer and ideally are communicated to his customers via a catalogue.

The way a roll is rolled, pattern in or pattern out, is one of these parameters that can be defined beforehand. Hence, the Working Group Interior Textiles decided this roll side be one of the characteristics to be considered when placing an order. For a standard roll this roll side is part of the definition of the article. For a generic roll, it is a second variable to be specified.

All possibilities are illustrated in the decision table of Section 4.

### 'Short rolls' :

The distinction between rolls and 'short rolls' is arbitrary. It is at the manufacturer's discretion. As the notion 'short roll' only exists for pricing purposes, i.e. to distinguish between 2 forms of the same variable product, the same GTIN should be used for both types. The difference in price will be made explicitly.

Example:

Manufacturer ABC considers rolls of less than 15 metres to be 'short rolls'. These cost X euro per m<sup>2</sup>, whereas rolls of 15 metres and more (all the other rolls) are priced at Y euro per m<sup>2</sup>.

### Finishing of carpeting :

If the same type of carpet is produced with different forms of finish (e.g. fringes, border, ...), all forms of the finished carpet should get another GTIN (to distinguish between them). The types of finish themselves are not numbered separately: ***only the combination unfinished carpet + finish gets a GTIN***. If the unfinished carpet is also sold, it must get a GTIN. Otherwise, the manufacturer is not obliged to number the unfinished product, although he may do so (e.g. for stock keeping purposes).

#### 4. Information to be communicated in an order

In the following table it is detailed which characteristic(s) of a carpet occurrence a customer must detail, and which he mustn't, when ordering it:

R = required

N = shall not be used/communicated

O = optional

n/a = not applicable (this item cannot be ordered)

NTA code value	width	length	pattern In/out	item
CT00	n/a			Raw material generic
CT01	N	R	R	Roll generic
CT02	N	N	N	Roll standard
CT03	N	R	R	Runner generic
CT04	N	N	N	Runner standard
CT05	R	R	O	Cutlength
CT06	R	R	O	Rug generic
CT07	N	N	O	Rug standard
CT08	R	R	N	Sample pure/generic
CT09	N	N	N	Sample book

This is how each characteristic should be detailed in the EANCOM® 1997 ORDERS message:

**Width :** **SG25 – MEA** (#0970<sup>6</sup>)

6311 PD = Physical dimensions (of product ordered)

C502 – 6313 **WD** = Width dimension

C174 – 6411 MTR = Metre

CMT = Centimetre

C174 – 6314 *Measurement value*

**Length :** **SG25 – MEA** (#0970<sup>6</sup>)

6311 PD = Physical dimensions (of product ordered)

C502 – 6313 **LN** = Length dimension

C174 – 6411 MTR = Metre

CMT = Centimetre

C174 – 6314 *Measurement value*

<sup>6</sup> Internal IFAK segment number; corresponds to segment #42 in the EANCOM® 1997 Manual

(Hence, only the qualifier for DE 6313 differs from specifying the width)

**Pattern in/out :**    **SG25 – IMD** (#0960<sup>7</sup>)

7077 C = Code (from industry code list)  
7081 U08 = Roll pattern out (EAN Code)  
      U09 = Roll pattern in (EAN Code)

**Finish :**                **SG25 – IMD** (#0960<sup>7</sup>)

7077 C = Code (from industry code list)  
7081 4 = Finish  
7009 IC01 = Overhand / overcast stitch  
      IC02 = Braid  
      IC03 = Band, trimming  
3055 X1 = BE, GS1 Belgium & Luxembourg

Ordered quantity:

Per **LIN** occurrence, there can only be one occurrence of **QTY** with code value '21' (ordered quantity) in DE 6063.

(The reason for this is that IMD (ALI), MEA and QTY are at the same level in the message. This implies no relations between these segments can be established; in EDIFACT relational links are only possible between segments on different message levels. Hence, within the same **LIN** occurrence it is not possible to order 5 rolls EAN1 with a length of 15m and 14 rolls EAN1 of 18m.)

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<sup>7</sup> Internal IFAK segment number; corresponds to segment #41 in the EANCOM® 1997 Manual

## 5. Information to be communicated in the EANCOM<sup>8</sup> 1997 PRICAT message

The table in Section 4 shows which parameters the customer must detail in his order for each possible occurrence of carpet. In the field, he can only know this if he has previously been informed by the manufacturer about these necessary parameters (length, width, roll pattern).

Hence, apart from the product's GTIN an additional typification is required to indicate which parameters remain to be detailed when ordering. The indication of the item's type can be done in the **IMD** segment. For this purpose, the same NTA codes (cf. table in the previous section) will be used.

Obviously, the missing information is mainly related to generic products.

Apart from the GTIN itself, an indication of these types is also necessary, for the manufacturer must also inform his clients which parameters they need to detail to order unambiguously the item.

### Example:

The (minimal) definition of a manufacturer's generic runner (e.g. with GTIN EAN1) will look like this:

```
UNB+...'  
BGM+...'  
DTM+...'  
NAD+SU+...'  
NAD+BY+...'  
LIN+1+1+EAN1:EN'  
IMD+C++CT03::X1'  
UNT+...'
```

As all segments of this mini-PRICAT are identical to those in other messages, no further information is required here.

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<sup>8</sup> The PRICAT message isn't part of this first phase of the Interior Textile project. Therefore, this section only points out the principles and minimal requirements of how to define and communicate types of carpet, in order to allow users to implement a **minimal** PRICAT. In this first phase, no PRICAT related documentation is present on the IFAK cd-rom.