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This document was prepared by GS1 (as EPCIS Standard, Release 2.0) and drafted in accordance with its editorial rules. It was adopted, under the JTC 1 PAS procedure, by Joint Technical Committee ISO/IEC JTC 1, *Information technology*.

This third edition cancels and replaces the second edition (ISO/IEC 19987:2017), which has been technically revised.

The main changes are as follows:

- addition of JSON/SOON-LD syntax (alongside XML);
- addition of REST bindings (alongside SOAP/WSDL);
- complete overhaul of UML diagrams;
- clarification on distinction between standard vocabulary and user vocabulary;
- new AssociationEvent;
- new “How” event dimension;
- overview of EPCIS even “dimensions” with cross-references to relevant sections in EPCIS (this document) and CBV (ISO/IEC 19988);

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- new Persistent Disposition indicating non-transient business state of an object;
- new SensorElement to accommodate sensor data;
- addition of certificationInfo to core EPCISEvent;
- update of SimpleEventQuery parameters;
- removal of support for Simple Master Data Query and EPCIS Master Data Document.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html and www.iec.ch/national-committees.

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Abstract

This document is a GS1 Standard that defines Version 2.0 of EPC Information Services (EPCIS). The goal of EPCIS is to enable disparate applications to create and share visibility event data, both within and across enterprises. Ultimately, this sharing is aimed at enabling users to gain a shared view of physical or digital objects within a relevant business context.

Status of this document

This section describes the status of this document at the time of its publication. Other documents may supersede this document. The latest status of this document series is maintained at GS1. See www.gs1.org/gsmpr for more information. This version of the GS1 EPCIS 2.0 Standard is the ratified version and has completed all GSMP steps. Comments on this document should be sent to gsmpr@gs1.org.

Differences from EPCIS 1.2

EPCIS 2.0 includes these new or enhanced features:

- Addition of JSON/SOJSON-LD syntax (alongside XML)
- Addition of REST bindings (alongside SOAP/WSDL)
- Completely overhauled UML diagram
- Clarification on distinction between standard vocabulary and user vocabulary
- New AssociationEvent
- New "How" event dimension
- Overview of EPCIS event "dimensions" with cross references to relevant sections in EPCIS & CBV
- New Persistent Disposition indicates non-transient business state of an object
- New SensorElement to accommodate sensor data
- Addition of certificationInfo to core EPCISEvent
- Updated SimpleEventQuery parameters
- Removal of support for Simple Master Data Query and EPCIS Master Data Document

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	8
2	Relationship to the GS1 System Architecture	9
2.1	Overview of GS1 standards.....	9
2.2	EPCIS in relation to the "Capture" and "Share" layers.....	10
2.3	EPCIS in Relation to trading partners.....	11
2.4	EPCIS in relation to other GS1 System Architecture components.....	12
3	EPCIS specification principles	15
4	Terminology and typographical conventions	16
5	EPCIS specification framework.....	17
5.1	Layers.....	17
5.2	Extensibility	18
5.3	Modularity	18
6	Abstract data model layer	20
6.1	Event data and master data.....	20
6.1.1	Transmission of master data in EPCIS	22
6.2	Standard vocabulary and user vocabulary	22
6.3	Extension mechanisms.....	24
6.4	Identifier representation	25
6.5	Hierarchical vocabularies.....	26
7	Data definition layer	27
7.1	General rules for specifying data definition layer modules	27
7.1.1	Content.....	27
7.1.2	Notation.....	28
7.1.3	Semantics	28
7.2	Core event types module – overview	30
7.2.1	UML Diagrams of EPCIS Event Types.....	31
7.2.2	Overview of EPCIS event "dimensions" (non-normative).....	32
7.2.3	Table of vocabulary types.....	35
7.3	Core event types module – building blocks	36
7.3.1	Primitive types	36
7.3.2	Action type	37
7.3.3	The "What" dimension	38
7.3.4	The "When" dimension.....	39
7.3.5	The "Where" Dimension – read point and business location	40
7.3.6	The "Why" dimension	43
7.3.7	The "How" dimension	47
7.3.8	Instance/Lot master data (ILMD).....	54
7.4	Core event types module – events	55
7.4.1	EPCISEvent.....	55
7.4.2	ObjectEvent (subclass of EPCISEvent)	59
7.4.3	AggregationEvent (subclass of EPCISEvent).....	63
7.4.4	TransactionEvent (subclass of EPCISEvent)	67
7.4.5	TransformationEvent (subclass of EPCISEvent)	72
7.4.6	AssociationEvent (subclass of EPCISEvent).....	75

8	Service Layer.....	81
8.1	Core capture operations module	83
8.1.1	Authentication and authorisation	83
8.1.2	Capture service	84
8.2	Core Query operations module	85
8.2.1	Authentication.....	85
8.2.2	Authorisation and redaction	86
8.2.3	Queries for large amounts of data.....	86
8.2.4	Overly complex queries.....	87
8.2.5	Query framework (EPCIS query control interface).....	87
8.2.6	Error conditions	93
8.2.7	Predefined queries for EPCIS.....	95
8.2.8	Query callback interface.....	127
9	XML bindings for data definition modules	128
9.1	Extensibility mechanism.....	128
9.2	Standard business document header	131
9.3	EPCglobal Base schema	131
9.4	Master data in the XML binding	132
9.5	Schema for core event types.....	133
9.6	Core event types – examples (Non-Normative)	134
10	JSON/JSON-LD bindings for data definition	135
10.1	Brief introduction to JSON and JSON-LD in the context of EPCIS	135
10.1.1	JavaScript Object Notation (JSON).....	136
10.1.2	JSON for Linked Data (JSON-LD)	137
10.1.3	Features of the JSON-LD context resource.....	138
10.1.4	Compact URI Expressions (CURIEs)	139
10.2	Expression and validation of EPCIS data structures in JSON and JSON-LD.....	140
10.2.1	Expressing data fields expecting simple values.....	140
10.2.2	Validating data fields expecting simple values.....	142
10.2.3	Validation of fields (e.g. 'action') that expect a string value from an enumerated list.....	144
10.2.4	Expressing simple lists of values.....	145
10.2.5	Validating lists of values.....	146
10.2.6	Expressing lists of elements with inline attributes expressing type.....	146
10.2.7	Modelling and validating subclasses of EPCIS event	149
10.2.8	Comparison of how validation rules are expressed in XSD, JSON Schema and SHACL	150
10.2.9	Mapping core SBDH fields to the JSON/JSON-LD data format for EPCIS....	152
10.2.10	Online validation tools for JSON Schema and SHACL	152
10.2.11	Libraries and toolkits providing JSON-LD support.....	152
10.3	Validation schema (references to normative content)	152
10.4	Non-normative examples in JSON and JSON-LD	153
11	Bindings for core capture operations module.....	153
11.1	Message queue binding.....	153
11.2	HTTP binding.....	154
12	REST Bindings.....	155
12.1	Code conventions.....	155
12.2	Introduction to REST	155
12.3	Content negotiation, service discovery and custom headers for EPCIS.....	157

12.4	Authentication and Authorization	159
12.5	Pagination	160
12.6	Capturing EPCIS Events	160
12.6.1	Capture Interface.....	161
12.6.2	Capture Jobs Interface.....	162
12.7	Events interface.....	163
12.7.1	EPCIS events collections	163
12.7.2	EPCIS events endpoints	163
12.7.3	Event filtering with the EPCIS query language.....	164
12.7.4	Top-level resources	165
12.8	Query control interface	166
12.8.1	Creating and using named queries	168
12.8.2	Deleting named queries	168
12.8.3	Subscribing to named queries	168
12.8.4	EPCIS query language	173
12.8.5	EPCIS query in the URL.....	174
12.9	Backward Compatibility of REST bindings with EPCIS 1.2	175
12.10	EPCIS Error Conditions and HTTP Status Code Mapping	175
13	Bindings for core query operations module.....	178
13.1	XML schema for core query operations module.....	178
13.2	SOAP/HTTP binding for the query control interface	179
13.3	AS2 Binding for the query control interface	180
13.3.1	GS1 AS2 guidelines (Non-Normative)	181
13.4	Bindings for query callback interface	183
13.4.1	General Considerations for all XML-based bindings.....	184
13.4.2	HTTP binding of the query callback interface.....	184
13.4.3	HTTPS binding of the query callback interface.....	185
13.4.4	AS2 Binding of the query callback interface	185
14	Conformance	186
14.1	Conformance of EPCIS XML data.....	186
14.2	Conformance of EPCIS capture interface clients.....	186
14.3	Conformance of EPCIS capture interface servers	186
14.4	Conformance of EPCIS query interface clients	187
14.5	Conformance of EPCIS query interface servers.....	187
14.6	Conformance of EPCIS query callback interface implementations.....	187
14.7	Conformance of JSON/JSON-LD bindings.....	187
14.8	Conformance of REST Interface for EPCIS 2.0 Servers.....	188
15	UML Diagrams for SBDH.....	190
15.1	UML aligned with text of SBDH specification	190
15.2	UML aligned with XSD of SBDH specification	191
16	List of abbreviations (non-normative)	191
17	References	193

Index of figures

Figure 2-1 EPCIS in relation to the "Capture" and "Share" layers	10
Figure 2-2 EPCIS in relation to other GS1 System Architecture components	12
Figure 5-1 Layers of the EPCIS specification framework	17
Figure 6-1 Structure of event data and master data in EPCIS.....	21
Figure 7-1 EPCIS data definition notation	28
Figure 7-2 EPCIS UML with Ontology focus	31
Figure 7-3 EPCIS UML with Syntax focus	31
Figure 7-4 Example of the distinction between a read point and a business location.....	42
Figure 7-5 Coordinate reference systems.....	53
Figure 7-6 Association and Aggregation with returnable transport units (RTIs).....	76
Figure 7-7 Association and Aggregation with containers	77
Figure 7-8 Association and Aggregation in a room.....	77
Figure 8-1 EPCIS Service Layer.....	82
Figure 10-1 RDF Triple: Subject-Property-Value.....	136
Figure 10-2 Supporting multiple formats for EPCIS / CBV 2.0	140
Figure 12-1 Client first uses OPTIONS to discover which versions are supported and making GET request	159
Figure 12-2 Authentication and authorisation.....	159
Figure 12-3 Endpoint: Capture Interface workflow	161
Figure 12-4 EPCIS query as URL query parameters.....	164
Figure 12-5 Endpoint: Named queries workflow	167
Figure 12-6 Client creates a named query for EPCIS events and uses pagination to retrieve all EPCIS events	168
Figure 12-7 Scheduled query workflow	170
Figure 12-8 Event streaming query workflow	171
Figure 12-9 Query subscription with Webhook (HTTP Callback)	172
Figure 12-10 Query subscription with a WebSocket.....	173
Figure 15-1 UML aligned with text of SBDH.....	191
Figure 15-2 UML aligned with XSD of SBDH	191

1 Introduction

This document is a GS1 standard that defines Version 2.0 of EPC Information Services (EPCIS). The goal of EPCIS is to enable disparate applications to create and share visibility event data, both within and across enterprises. Ultimately, this sharing is aimed at enabling users to gain a shared view of physical or digital objects within a relevant business context.

“Objects” in the context of EPCIS typically refers to physical objects that are identified either at a class or instance level and which are handled in physical handling steps of an overall business process involving one or more organisations. Examples of such physical objects include trade items (products), logistic units, returnable assets, fixed assets, physical documents, etc. “Objects” may also refer to digital objects, also identified at either a class or instance level, which participate in comparable business process steps. Examples of such digital objects include digital trade items (music downloads, electronic books, etc.), digital documents (electronic coupons, etc.), and so forth. Throughout this document the word “object” is used to denote a physical or digital object, identified at a class or instance level, that is the subject of a business process step. EPCIS data consist of “visibility events,” each of which is the record of the completion of a specific business process step acting upon one or more objects.

The EPCIS standard was originally conceived as part of a broader effort to enhance collaboration between trading partners by sharing of detailed information about physical or digital objects. The name EPCIS reflects the origins of this effort in the development of the Electronic Product Code (EPC). It should be noted, however, that EPCIS does not require the use of Electronic Product Codes, nor of Radio-Frequency Identification (RFID) data carriers, and does not even require instance-level identification (for which the Electronic Product Code was originally designed). The EPCIS standard applies to all situations in which visibility event data is to be captured and shared, and the presence of “EPC” within the name is of historical significance only.

EPCIS provides open, standardised interfaces that allow for seamless integration of well-defined services in inter-company environments as well as within companies. Standard interfaces are defined in the EPCIS standard to enable visibility event data to be captured and queried using a defined set of service operations and associated data standards, all combined with appropriate security mechanisms that satisfy the needs of user companies. In many or most cases, this will involve the use of one or more persistent databases of visibility event data, though elements of the Services approach could be used for direct application-to-application sharing without persistent databases.

With or without persistent databases, the EPCIS specification specifies only standard data sharing interfaces between applications that capture visibility event data and those that need access to it. *It does not specify how the service operations or databases themselves should be implemented.* This includes not defining how the EPCIS services should acquire and/or compute the data they need, except to the extent the data is captured using the standard EPCIS capture operations. The interfaces are needed for interoperability, while the implementations allow for competition among those providing the technology and implementing the standard.

EPCIS is intended to be used in conjunction with the GS1 Core Business Vocabulary (CBV) standard [CBV2.0]. EPCIS and the CBV are developed, maintained and published by GS1; EPCIS and the CBV are also published within ISO's PAS process as ISO/IEC 19987 and ISO/IEC 19988, respectively. The CBV standard provides definitions of data values that may be used to populate the data structures defined in the EPCIS standard. The use of the standardised vocabulary provided by the CBV standard is critical to interoperability and critical to provide for querying of data by reducing the variation in how different businesses express common intent. Therefore, applications should use the CBV standard to the greatest extent possible in constructing EPCIS data.

The companion EPCIS and CBV Implementation Guideline [EPCISGuideline] provides additional guidance for building visibility systems using EPCIS and CBV, including detailed discussion of how to model specific business situations using EPCIS/CBV data and methods for sharing such data between trading partners.

2 Relationship to the GS1 System Architecture

This section is largely quoted from [GS1Arch], and shows the relationship of EPCIS to other GS1 standards.

2.1 Overview of GS1 standards

GS1 standards support the information needs of end users interacting with each other in supply chains, specifically the information required to support the business processes through which supply chain participants interact. The subjects of such information are the real-world entities that are part of those business processes. Real-world entities include things traded between companies, such as products, parts, raw materials, packaging, and so on. Other real-world entities of relevance to trading partners include the equipment and material needed to carry out the business processes surrounding trade such as containers, transport, machinery; entities corresponding to physical locations in which the business processes are carried out; legal entities such as companies, divisions; service relationships; business transactions and documents; and others. Real-world entities may exist in the tangible world, or may be digital or conceptual. Examples of physical objects include a consumer electronics product, a transport container, and a manufacturing site (location entity). Examples of digital objects include an electronic music download, an eBook, and an electronic coupon. Examples of conceptual entities include a trade item class, a product category, and a legal entity.

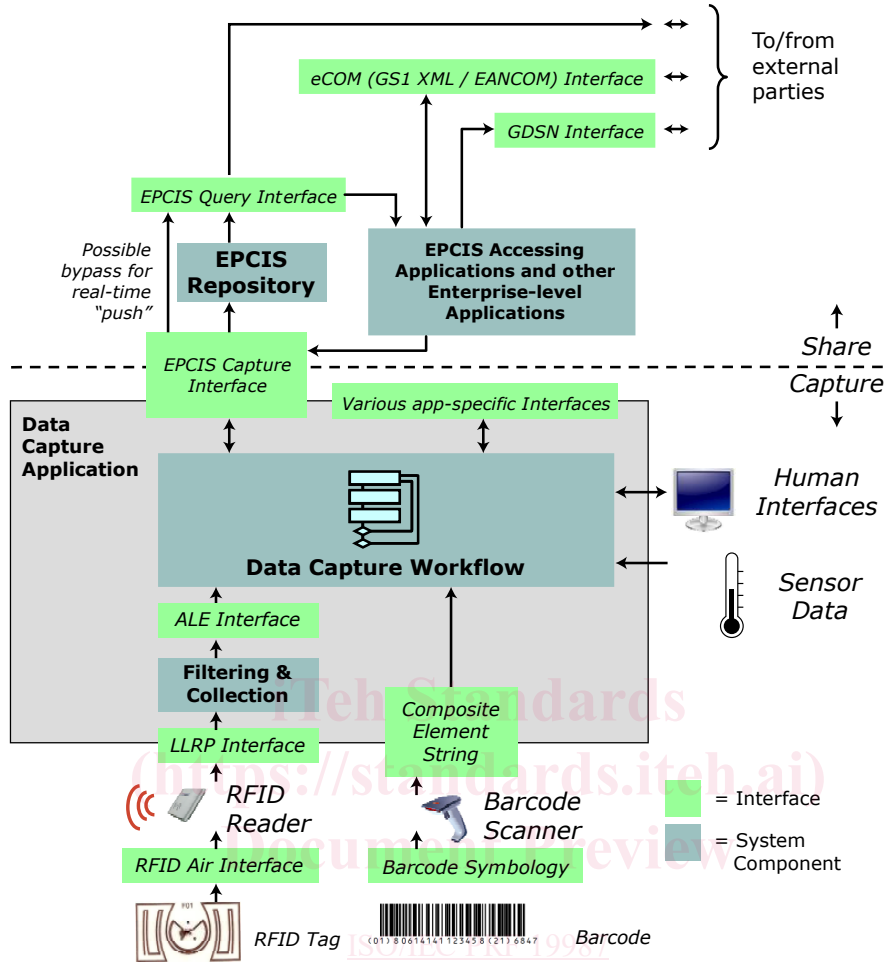
GS1 standards may be divided into the following groups according to their role in supporting information needs related to real-world entities in supply chain business processes:

- Standards which provide the means to **identify** real-world entities so that they may be the subject of electronic information that is stored and/or communicated by end users. GS1 identification standards include standards that define unique identification codes (called GS1 identification keys).
- Standards which provide the means to automatically **capture** data that is carried directly on physical objects, bridging the world of physical things and the world of electronic information. GS1 data capture standards include definitions of barcode and radio-frequency identification (RFID) data carriers which allow identifiers to be affixed directly to a physical object, and standards that specify consistent interfaces to readers, printers, and other hardware and software components that connect the data carriers to business applications.
- Standards which provide the means to **Share** information, both between trading partners and internally, providing the foundation for electronic business transactions, electronic visibility of the physical or digital world, and other information applications. GS1 standards for information sharing include this EPCIS Standard which is a standard for visibility event data. Other standards in the "Share" group are standards for master data and for business transaction data, as well as discovery standards that help locate where relevant data resides across a supply chain and trust standards that help establish the conditions for sharing data with adequate security.

The EPCIS standard fits into the "Share" group, providing the data standard for visibility event data and the interface standards for capturing such information from data capture infrastructure (which employs standards from the "Capture" group) and for sharing such information with business applications and with trading partners.

2.2 EPCIS in relation to the "Capture" and "Share" layers

Figure 2-1 EPCIS in relation to the "Capture" and "Share" layers



The diagram above shows the relationship between EPCIS and other GS1 standards in the "Capture" and "Share" groups. (The "Identify" group of standards pervades the data at all levels of this architecture, and so is not explicitly shown.)

As depicted in the diagram above, the EPCIS Capture Interface exists as a bridge between the "Capture" and "Share" standards. The EPCIS Query Interface provides visibility event data both to internal applications and for sharing with trading partners.

At the centre of a data capture application is the data capture workflow that supervises the business process step within which data capture takes place. This is typically custom logic that is specific to the application. Beneath the data capture workflow in the diagram is the data path between the workflow and GS1 data carriers: barcodes and RFID. The green bars in the diagram denote GS1 standards that may be used as interfaces to the data carriers. At the top of the diagram are the interfaces between the data capture workflow and larger-scale enterprise applications. Many of these interfaces are application- or enterprise-specific, though using GS1 data as building blocks; however, the EPCIS interface is a GS1 standard. Note that the interfaces at the top of the diagram, including EPCIS, are independent of the data carrier used at the bottom of the diagram.

The purpose of the interfaces and the reason for a multi-layer data capture architecture is to provide isolation between different levels of abstraction. Viewed from the perspective of an enterprise application (i.e., from the uppermost blue box in the figure), the entire data capture application shields the enterprise application from the details of exactly how data capture takes place. Through the application-level interfaces (uppermost green bars), an enterprise application interacts with the data capture workflow through data that is data carrier independent and in which all of the interaction between data capture components has been consolidated into that data. At a lower level, the data capture workflow is cognizant of whether it is interacting with barcode scanners, RFID interrogators, human input, etc., but the transfer interfaces