

Associated Food Stores GDSN Frequently Asked Questions

Question: What is the GDSN?

Answer: GDSN stands for Global Data Synchronization Network. It is a system that was created to synchronize item data between suppliers and retailers.

Question: What type of information does it include?

Answer: Currently it includes "Master Item Data." Included are a number of items from Associated Food Stores new item fact sheet like *retail U.P.C., case U.P.C., case dimensions, product dimensions, etc.*

Question: What are the benefits of joining the GDSN?

Answer: Data Synchronization will bring accuracy between suppliers and retailers which will ultimately result in less invoice discrepancies, out-of-stock situations, and unnecessary data entry along with many other benefits.

Question: Will price information be a part of the GDSN?

Answer: We are not able to pass price information yet. This is a work in progress, involving both retailers and suppliers to perfect the process.

Question: What other retailers are participating?

Answer: Wal-Mart, Ahold, Shaw's, SUPERVALU, FoodLion, A&P, Meijer, Albertsons, Kroger & Schnucks

Question: How do I join the GDSN?

Answer: You first need to choose a data pool to join. To see a list of certified data pools you can visit the GS1 website www.gs1.org/GDS and click on GDSN at the top of the screen. You can also access more information on the GDSN by visiting the website. Once you have joined a data pool contact either Corby Bleckert or Rita Edmunds with Associated Food Stores.

Question: What is the cost to join the GDSN?

Answer: The fee for the GDSN varies per company ranging between \$1,500 and \$400,000 per year based on total company sales. The cost structure is posted on the GS1 website at www.gs1.org/GDS.