



**BAR CODE
GRAPHICS**



THD GTIN & GS1-128 Barcode Certification Program Overview and Guidance

SUPPLIER COMPLIANCE CHALLENGE

SCOPE

The Home Depot point-of-sale scanners and automated logistic supply chains are dependent on the scannability of supplier-provided barcodes. Non-compliant barcodes result in significant operational inefficiencies and manual processing that not only disrupts workflow but also increase costs and reduce overall productivity.

PROBLEM

Despite barcode technology's 50-year history, supplier non-compliance with GS1 minimum print standards remains a persistent challenge that threatens retail efficiency. The Home Depot recognized the need for a trusted unbiased barcode verification program to ensure their suppliers' barcodes will perform reliably before products/shipments enter their supply chain ecosystem.

OUR AUTHORITY

Since the inception of the UPC barcode, Bar Code Graphics has been recognized as the expert authority for barcode origination and print quality compliance. Our long-standing presence in the barcode industry assisting manufacturers and retailers, coupled with our involvement in the GS1 global standards, underscores our capability and reputation.



Identification Labs

Barcode certification and compliance administration

Bar Code Graphics has earned the reputation as sole source for unbiased retailer barcode certification. Our specialized division, Identification Labs, has been providing dedicated retailer barcode testing programs since 1997.



Retailers, such as The Home Depot, that utilize our barcode certification services empower us to administer unbiased testing to ensure their supply chain will not be impacted by supplier-provided barcodes. Suppliers are required to routinely certify their ability to comply with The Home Depot GTIN and GS1-128 requirements to prevent logistic supply chain disruptions and avoid consequential compliance offset charges.

GS1 GLOBAL STANDARDS



GS1 Global Standards provide a universal language for business, enabling seamless identification, capture, and sharing of information across global supply chains regardless of industry or location. These standardized frameworks for product identification and logistics tracking enhance efficiency and interoperability throughout commercial ecosystems, serving as the foundation for trusted transactions between suppliers and trading partners.



THD Barcode Requirements: Harmonized with GS1 Standards

The Home Depot's GTIN and EDI shipping label barcode requirements adhere to GS1 global standards, with specifications deliberately harmonized to protect supplier interests and enable the use of consistent barcodes across all trading partners. While competitors with slower-moving supply chains might tolerate substandard barcodes, The Home Depot's high-velocity operations demand full compliance with GS1 specifications to maintain efficiency. Annual GS1 standard updates are routinely reviewed to ensure The Home Depot's requirements remain aligned with global best practices, particularly regarding critical barcode sizing and dimensions.

STANDARDS COMPLIANT BARCODE PRINT QUALITY EVALUATIONS

Since POS and logistic barcodes are essentially the conduits for identifying goods and shipments within a supply chain, barcode compliance with recognized standards is imperative. The ISO/IEC 15416 Barcode Print Quality Test Specifications are the basis that all industries use for evaluating barcode symbol print quality. GS1 global standards provide the framework for retail product and shipment identification, and the GS1 General Specifications provide guidance on how the ISO/IEC 15416 specification should be applied for various environments within supply chains.

Identification Labs adheres to all ISO/ANSI barcode print quality methodologies. All equipment is GS1 certified and calibrated daily to NIST traceable compliance guides. Bar Code Graphics has multiple GS1 certified barcode consultants on staff and plays an active role in the global GS1 GSMP standards committees.

MANDATORY CERTIFICATION

All THD suppliers are required to submit both GTIN barcodes and GS1-128 shipping labels for certification. Physical test samples are required from all ship point locations. Variations in software, processes, printers and personnel can impact label formatting and print quality. Certification by ship location demonstrates a supplier's complete ability to meet the THD barcode requirements



THE HOME DEPOT BARCODE CERTIFICATION

All suppliers need to demonstrate their ability to comply with THD GTIN and GS1-128 barcode requirements. THD requires every product packaging and case pack to achieve certification. It is also mandatory that every ship location that prints GS1-128 labels gets certified. This safety net helps prevent supply chain disruptions and non-compliance offset charges.

- Visit <https://homedepot.symboltest.com/> to register your company and begin certification.
- Upon successful registration, you will be instructed to submit physical label samples for each GTIN package type and GS1-128 label format your company will utilize.
- Physical package and label samples are required for final certification evaluations. The actual product does not always need to be provided.
- All submissions must include a completed registration form that is either provided after online registration or manually entered. Forms are available on the certification website.
- Suppliers are encouraged to thoroughly review The Home Depot Barcode Specifications prior to submitting samples for certification.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Can we just send in a digital sample?

Ultimately, only physical packaging and labels can be certified to accurately demonstrate your company's ability to provide compliant barcodes. However, a digital sample may be initially submitted for format and dimensional review. A separate testing fee will apply.

We have no issues with other retailers, why is GTIN barcode & GS1-128 label certification necessary?

THD's Barcode Specifications are harmonized to the GS1 global specifications. Very few retailers leverage sortation environments similar to that of The Home Depot. Consequently, they may not need to be as reliant on adherence to the GS1 standards.

In addition, many retailers use 3rd party technology companies for their EDI onboarding process. They commonly charge a flat fee, so their GS1-128 label testing evaluations may not adhere to the GS1 global standards.

Once we pass certification for a GTIN packaging and GS1-128 label format, do we need to re-certify?

GS1-128 Shipping Label re-certification is only necessary IF your company begins to receive offset expense charges for non-compliance. Due to the severity of non-compliance, re-certification is recommended any time there is a change to equipment, software, or material. When new GTIN product or carton packaging is introduced, certification should be done for compliance.

Are there volume discounts available for bulk GTIN barcode testing?

Yes! Please visit <https://homedepot.symboltest.com/updated/PricingStructure.asp> for pricing discount information.



BAR CODE GRAPHICS

Bar Code Graphics specializes in standardized barcode identification, so accurate and compliant data can be efficiently bridged from physical products and shipments to digitized supply chain ecosystems.

Our niche services solve specific deficiencies in barcode identification and compliance encountered by retailers and suppliers.

COMPANY CONTACT INFORMATION

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- <https://www.gs1-128.info> (informational)