



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VICS ANNOUNCES HARDLINES PRODUCTS IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELINES**

**Lawrenceville, NJ** – The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions (VICS) Association, the leading developer of best practices for the retail supply chain, has announced the publication of implementation guidelines to support the data synchronization efforts for four specific sectors within the Hardlines industry for trading partners utilizing the GS1 system of supply chain standards. The four sectors include: bulk products, gypsum products, live nursery stock, and lumber products.

The new guidelines are intended to support the unique characteristics of merchandising and logistics within each of these important product lines. The guidelines identify and define the trade item data attributes and provide consensus based Best Practices where applicable; and answer common specific questions on how to implement a given attribute.

“The goals of the new guidelines are to clarify the use of specific trade item model data attributes, eliminate the need for trading partner specific implementation guidelines, and identify values that retailers may require in each field. To reach an agreement on this data, VICS Hardlines Implementation Subcommittee spent over a year consulting with representatives from the major Hardlines retailers, manufacturers, and data pool service providers,” said Joe Andraski, President and CEO of VICS.

A key component of the guidelines is a consensus-based application of the GS1 General Specifications section 6.8. This section establishes rules for the global, unambiguous definition of nominal measurement attributes of product packaging to facilitate communication of the same for retail and non-retail products from the consumer unit to the case level and all intermediate packaging levels in between. This standard provides a repeatable process to determine measurements for a given product package when measured by different individuals independently.

“The accurate and consistent dimensional measurement of trade item packaging is key to the successful implementation of Data Synchronisation between trading partners. These rules, provided for use by all trading partners wishing to exchange data about product package measurements, create a common methodology intended to ensure global compatibility,” said Andraski.

Additional information is available at [www.vics.org/guidelines](http://www.vics.org/guidelines).

### **About VICS**

The Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Solutions (VICS) Association has enabled companies in the retail and consumer-focused industries to eliminate billions of dollars of waste and delay. By creating voluntary guidelines, often referred to as “standards,” VICS has created new best practices that ultimately lead to lower costs and better availability of products for consumers. VICS’ volunteer members improve the flow of products and information throughout retailing and the consumer-focused industries that supply retail. The Association provides leadership and an environment in which executives can make a difference in their industry, their company performance—and their personal commitment to make the world work a little bit better. VICS’ members help define the next best practices in the industries and thus anticipate and optimize business processes and costs. Additional information can be found at [www.vics.org](http://www.vics.org).

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