



**Hardlines  
Data Attributes**

**Gypsum Products**

**Implementation Questions & Answers**

**Version 1.0**

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## Introduction:

The format used in this document first identifies the data attribute, its definition as defined by the VICS Hardlines Data Synchronization subcommittee in conjunction with current schema definitions, implementation notes, and questions received from the Gypsum manufacturers to date on how to implement the attribute in question.

The goal of this document is to:

- Clarify the use of a specific data attribute
- Alleviate the need for ‘trading partner’ specific implementation guidelines
- Identify specific values the retailers will require in each field
- Develop Hardlines Industry implementation best practices
- To that end, the VICS Hardlines Implementation subcommittee arranged weekly discussions with representation from the Gypsum manufacturers, VICS members, retailers and data pool service providers so that agreement could be reached for a consistent response to these questions. The output from those discussions and the specific implementation guidelines for the questions presented will be published to the community at large.

## Product Dimensional Attributes

Package measurement standards for Depth, Width and Height have not previously been clearly understood for many panelized or lumber products. The following section provides basic information to support the correct determination of dimensional attributes, and provides references to additional material that more fully describes the process and exceptions to the general rules.

In order to obtain accurate dimensional attributes, it is critical to reference and follow the EAN.UCC Package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment. (Section 6.8 of the General EAN.UCC Specifications) The package measurement rules provide for a consistent and standardized methodology for measuring dimensions of trade items. Additional information is contained in the GS1 US Package Measurement Guidelines that further explain and illustrate the processes used to correctly obtain dimensional attributes.

**Note: The methods to obtain dimensional attributes are based on reference surfaces that are different based on whether or not a trade item is intended to pass through point-of-sale.**

- Consumer Trade Items **are** intended to pass through point of sale
- Non-Consumer Trade Items **are not** intended to pass through point of sale

## Depth

Definition:

- For **Consumer Trade Items**, depth is defined as the measurement from front to back while facing the default front.
- For **Non-Consumer Trade Items**, depth is defined as the longest side of the Natural Base.

Reference and follow EAN.UCC package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment. (Section 6.8 of the General EAN.UCC Specifications) The package measurement rules provide for a consistent and standardized methodology for measuring dimensions of a trade item, and are based on a reference surface as further described in the general specifications. Also reference GS1 US Package Measurement Guidelines that further illustrate how to correctly obtain dimensional attributes for both types of trade items.

**Implementation Note:** When depth is populated, the UOM must match on all of the attributes (e.g. inches). Change to the depth of an item cannot be more than 20% of the original value.

**Question:** Sections 6.0 of the General EAN.UCC Specifications for Symbol Placement Guidelines are contradictory on Depth, and Width on consumer units verses non-consumer units. How do the retailers want us to state these measurements?

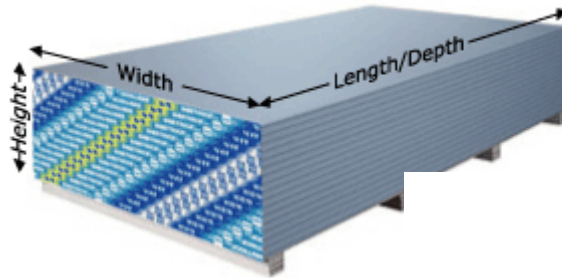
**Answer:** The methods to obtain dimensional attributes are based on reference surfaces that are different based on whether or not a trade item is intended to pass through point-of-sale. Consumer Trade Items are intended to pass through point of sale and Non-Consumer Trade Items **are not** intended to pass through point of sale

**Question:** On bagged goods, as a Base Item do we state Depth as the product sits flat on the pallet or standing up on end?

**Answer:** Bagged goods are almost always consumer trade items as they are meant to pass through point of sale. Depth is determined after identifying the default front. Depth is the measurement from front to back. Per the General Specifications document, product merchandising position does **NOT** determine how product is measured.

**Implementation Note:** As a Hardlines industry best practice, the measurement methodology decisions for Gypsum wallboard products will also apply to all panelized wood products such as plywood, plywood siding, prefinished paneling, hardboard, pegboard, particleboard, MDF, OSB, rigid insulation products and dimensional lumber.

**Question:** Most if not all panelized wood products are typically merchandised with the long edge facing the consumer. Some of these products are branded and some are not. How are measurements determined for these products?



**Answer:** The long edge should be considered Depth. The short edge, or the measurement from front to back, should be considered as width. The thickness of the product should be considered as height.

**Implementation Note:** when considering palletized GTINs, the height of the pallet (or risers in Gypsum) **IS NOT INCLUDED** in the measurement.

## Height

### Definition:

- For **Consumer Trade Items**, height is defined as the measurement from the bottom most point to the top most point while facing the Default Front.
- For **Non-Consumer Trade Items**, height is defined as the measurement from the bottom most point to the top most point of the Natural base.

**Implementation Note:** When height, width and depth are populated, the UOM must match on all of the attributes (e.g. inches). Change to the height of an item cannot be more than 20% of the original value.

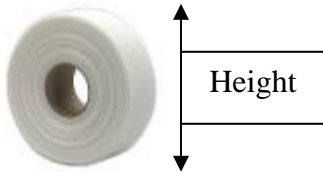
**Implementation Note:** When considering palletized GTINs, the height of the pallet **IS NOT INCLUDED** in the measurement.

**Question:** On bagged goods, as a Base Unit, should the height of the bag be measured as the bag stands on end or as it lies on the pallet?

**Answer:** Bagged goods are almost always consumer trade items as they are meant to pass through point of sale. Height is determined after identifying the default front. Height is the measurement from top to bottom. Per the General Specifications document, product merchandising position does **NOT** determine how product is measured.

**Question:** On rolls of drywall tape, should the height be shown as the roll sits flat on the shelf or as it sits standing up on end?

**Answer:** Rolls of drywall tape are consumer trade items as they are meant to pass through point of sale. Height is determined after identifying the default front. As drywall tape is typically unmarked, the largest panel by area is considered the default front and the longest dimension is the height. Per the General Specifications document, product merchandising position does **NOT** determine how product is measured.



## Width

Description:

- For **Consumer Trade Items**, width is defined as the measurement from left to right while facing the Default Front.
- For **Non-Consumer Trade Items**, width is defined as the shortest side of the Natural Base.

**Implementation Note:** When height, width and depth are populated, the UOM must match on all of the attributes (e.g. inches). Change to the width of an item cannot be more than 20% of the original value.

## **Additional Hardlines Data Attributes:**

### **Additional Trade Item Description**

Description: This field may be used to supply additional trade item information in order to more properly or completely describe trade item characteristics.

**Implementation Note:** Although the schema allows for 1,000 characters, the committee recommends no more than 225 characters be transmitted.

Hardlines Best Practice Recommendation: This should be a long description that allows the manufacturer to give the retailers additional information about the item. The retailers will manipulate the description, as needed for their marketing pieces and shelf tags.

**Question:** What do retailers expect here?

**Answer:** This attribute should be populated by a long description that provides retailers additional descriptive information about the trade item. The retailers will manipulate this description as needed for their marketing pieces and shelf tags.

### **Country of Origin**

Description: The country code or codes in which the goods have been produced or manufactured.

Examples: 124 = Canada      484=Mexico      840 = United States

**Implementation Note:** This is a repeatable field. If the product is manufactured in more than one country, all countries should be listed.

**Question:** How are the retailers going to use this information?

**Answer:** This attribute is referring to product final assembly. When available, list the countries in priority order based on the percentage of product manufactured from highest to lowest. This attribute has been determined by GDSN to be correctly implemented as N3 which is what it is in the schemas.

### **Description Short**

**Description:** 30 character description that is used as the primary item description in the retailer's system.

**Question:** What is expected here?

**Answer:** Answer: This field should be populated with a free form short length description of the trade item that can be used to identify the trade item at point of sale. Cryptic abbreviations should be avoided. This description should be recognizable to any reader. Retailers will use data from other fields to create shelf tags.

## Gross Weight

**Description:** Used to identify the gross weight of the trade item. The gross weight includes all packaging materials of the trade item. At pallet level the trade item Gross Weight includes the weight of the pallet itself.

**Implementation Note:** Gross weight required on Orderable Units only. If gross weight and net weight are provided on the same record, gross weight must be greater than or equal to net weight, and the UOM must match (e.g. pounds). Change to the gross weight cannot be more than 20% of the original value.

**Question:** Some people say to include the weight of the pallet, some say do not..... Which method is correct?

At this time the GDSN Guidelines and Task Group defines this as including the measurement of the packaging at all levels, including pallet and for the pallet GTIN, you are to include the weight of the pallet itself in addition to the packaging materials.

**Question:** Gypsum product weights will vary from run to run, from plant to plant and from season to season. How should we state the weight of the product? How will the retailers use this information? Will they feed this information into their EDI systems to determine truckload quantities?

**Answer:** This attribute is required if the Trade Item is flagged as an Orderable Unit. This measurement should include the weight of the pallet and its packaging. On gypsum board products, the manufacturer's **average stated** weight, known as 'nominal weight' should be used. This is a Hardlines industry best Practice as it cannot currently be enforced by the schema or a DVE rule,

## Net Content

**Description:** The amount of the trade item contained by a package, as claimed on the label. This is at the "each" level. Example: - If there are 50 nails in a box or 100 tablets in a bottle, the net content **may** only be "1".

**Implementation Note:** Required field if item is flagged as consumer unit. Supplied value is singular.

**Question:** Some weights and measures are required by law in some areas. What do the retailers want to see here and in what unit of measure? Would the net content of a piece of wallboard be one piece? Would the net content of a roll of joint tape be one roll? Would the net content of a bag of plaster be one bag or 50 lbs?

**Answer:** Net Content is required if the Trade Item is flagged as a Consumer Unit. It should reflect the amount of the Trade Item that is **declared to the end consumer and printed on the product**. In the example questions above, the answers are: Wallboard-1 PC; Joint Tape- The length of the roll (250 FT); Bag of plaster- 50 LBS. If manufacturers need to communicate additional Net Content information, the Hardlines industry best practices is to utilize the attribute "Descriptive Size" for this information.

## Ordering Lead Time

**Description:** The normal delivery time measured from receipt of order by the seller until trade item is shipped by the seller. Lead time is defined as from date of receipt of PO by the seller to shipment date the product leaves the seller.

**Implementation Note:** Needed only if the Trade Item is flagged as an Orderable Unit. While this attribute is optional in the standard, HARDLINES RETAILERS have indicated their intention to reject any item notifications that omit this attribute value, so as a best practice this field should always be populated.

**Question:** How will the retailers use this information? Lead times for the retailers are negotiated and vary by retailer. Should we fill with this attribute with our standard lead time (e.g. 10 days)?

**Answer:** Manufacturers should list their **standard** lead times for all items. **Example:** 12 hours, 48 hours, 4 days

## Order Quantity Maximum

**Description:** This is a number, or a count that is used to control manufacturing and or distribution costs. This attribute may be relationship dependant. An example would be new item introductions or seasonal products where the manufacturer sets limits on the quantity a retailer may order.

**Question:** Is this needed on the every-day items that are not seasonal or limited quantities and if so, what would the retailers want us to fill this in with? The attribute allows for 999999999; what do the retailers want to see?

**Answer:** This attribute is Situational and only applies if the Trade Item is flagged as an Orderable Unit. It should only be used on those items where it applies (i.e. new product releases, seasonal items and limited productions). If not needed, leave blank. A blank will be taken as no maximum quantities apply.

## Order Quantity Minimum

**Description:** Represents an agreed to minimum quantity of the trade item that may be ordered. Consists of a number or a count. This applies to each individual order. This attribute may be a fixed amount for all customers in a target market.

**Implementation Note:** If the product type is not an orderable unit, there should **not** be a minimum or multiple. `quantityOfNextLowerLevelTradeItem` or `totalQuantityOfLowerLevelTradeItem` are to be used to define how many (non orderable) units are in a case.

**Question:** We produce Joint Compound and package it in a 1 gallon bucket. We typically ship cartons containing 4 buckets, which is the minimum ordering quantity. However, some retailers will order a bulk-packed pallet of 125 buckets. How do we complete this attribute for the Base Unit of one bucket (4 or 125?) The same thing applies to other products where, depending upon which plant the product comes from, the smallest shipping unit may be 36 or it may be 48. Which do we put as the minimum quantity?

**Answer:** This attribute is situational and only applies if the Trade Item is flagged as an Orderable Unit. It should only be used on those items where minimum order quantities exist

(cartons of drywall tape, cartons of 1-gallon ready mix). If not applicable, leave blank. A blank will be taken as no minimum quantities apply. In the question about different quantities on a pallet, manufacturers should list the quantity that they ship the most of e.g.; their standard shipping quantity (in the situation listed above the answer would be 4).

## **Order Quantity Multiple**

**Description:** The order quantity multiples in which the trade item may be ordered. If the Order Quantity Minimum is '100', and the Order Quantity Multiple is '20', then the trade item can only be ordered in quantities which are divisible by the Order Quantity Multiple of '20'.

**Implementation Note:** If the product type is NOT an orderable unit, there should **not** be a minimum or multiple. Consumer units to tell case quantity of "next lower level trade item" or "total quantity of lower level trade item" are to be used to define how many (non orderable) units are in a case

**Question:** Joint Treatment products can be palletized in quantities of 36 or 48 pails per pallet depending on the plant and what size pallets they happen to have at any given time. What quantity do we fill-in for the Base Unit of this Trade Item?

Wallboard products are produced in pieces with 2 pieces bundled together with the edges taped together. We will not take an order for less than 2 pieces (one bundle) and ship in several unit sizes. Would the Order Quantity Multiple for this product be "2" or the smallest unit quantity?

**Answer:** This attribute is Situational and only applies if the Trade Item is flagged as an Orderable Unit. Manufacturers should fill in their **standard** lift size for each GTIN. On wallboard products the 2-piece bundle would be a PACK\_OR\_INNER\_PACK and the standard lift size would be the Order Quantity Multiple.

## **Quantity of Complete Layers Contained In A Trade Item**

**Description:** The number of layers of the base trade item contained in a complete layer of a higher packaging configuration in hierarchical packaging structure of a trade item. This is typically known as "HI", and does not apply to any pack sizes less than a pallet. Required attribute for shipping units such as pallets that are GTIN marked.

**Question:** We sell drywall tape in a case that has 20 rolls inside it. The case is marked with a UPC GTIN as it is a saleable unit. This attribute is required if the item is a Shipping Unit and GTIN marked but not required if the trade item is a Base Unit. When filling out the attributes for the GTIN of the case of 20 rolls of tape, it is a both a shipping unit and a saleable unit. How do we complete these fields?

**Question:** Can a trade item be labeled with a UPC-A GTIN and not be a Base Unit?

**Answer:** This is a situational item and only applies to Palletized items. In the situation above with drywall tape, only the pallet of cartons of drywall tape would include this attribute.

**Answer:** A trade item may be labeled with a UPC-A GTIN and not be a Base Unit.

## Packaging Material

**Description:** Packaging material of the trade item. ANSI defines a code list.

**Question:** Has the code source for the packaging attributes been identified yet? No one seems to know where this information will come from. Tom Smith from AGSA noted that these are European standards and a standards organization to oversee these here in the US has not been appointed yet. Tom suggested that the value for these attributes will be “NULL” until a governing authority has been chosen. How should we complete this?

**Answer:** The ANSI X12 Code 103 list, parts one and two, should be used. As this code list is dynamic and subject to change, always refer to the latest version. This information is available from many sources including your data pool, or from GS1 US. The current list used by GDSN is attached as Appendix 2 for reference only.

## Packaging Type Code

**Description:** The code identifying the type of package used as a container of the trade item. The attribute is required by some retailers. ANSI defines a code list.

**Question:** With so many values listed what are the recommended values to use in the Hardlines industry?

**Answer:** After reviewing the ANSI X12 Code 103 list the best values to use for wallboard products are PIECE for the Base Unit, BUNDLE for the 2-piece bundle and UNIT for the pallet-level trade items. (These may also carry over into other panelized products for the Base Unit and Pallet-level).

## Quantity of Trade Items Contained In A Complete Layer

**Description:** The number of trade items contained in a complete layer of a higher packaging configuration in hierarchical packaging structure of a trade item. This is typically known as “TI”, and does not apply to any pack sizes less than a pallet. Required attribute for shipping units such as pallets that are GTIN marked.

**Question:** Wallboard products are packaged in 2-piece bundles but the Base Unit is the piece. Should we consider the piece as a “layer” or the 2-piece bundle as a “layer”?

**Answer:** This is a situational item and only applies to Palletized items. In the situation above with drywall tape, only the pallet of cartons of drywall tape would include this attribute. With wallboard products, a layer would be one piece.

## Stacking Factor

**Description:** A factor that determines the maximum stacking for the product. Indicates the number of levels the product may be stacked. Item can be either nested or stacked. This field is used to indicate how many GTINs are nested or stacked. Nesting increment would also need to be provided – additional dimension added when products are nested. E.g., trash cans.

**Question:** How will the retailers use this information and do you need it?

**Answer:** This attribute is Situational and should only be used on those GTINS where it applies. It is used in planograms for product merchandising and storage.

## **Stacking Weight Maximum**

**Description:** The maximum admissible weight that can be stacked on the trade item. This uses a measurement consisting of a unit of measure and a value. This will be used for transport or storage to allow user to know by weight how to stack different trade item one on top of the other.

**Question:** How will the retailers use this information and do you need it?

**Answer:** This attribute is Situational and should only be used on those GTINS where it applies. It is used in planograms for product merchandising and storage.

## **Target Market Country**

**Description:** The target market code indicates the country level or higher geographical definition in which the information provider will make the GTIN available to buyers. This indicator does not in any way govern where the buyer may re-sell the GTIN to consumers.

**Implementation Note:** Supplied value is a valid Country Code and matches the Country Code added to the RCIR (Registry Catalogue Item Registry).

**Question:** We manufacture wallboard in the US and Canada. Plants in both countries use the same GTIN for the same item. We will fill the orders from which ever plant has the material and ship it where ever it needs to go. This means that wallboard made in the US may be sent to Canada and vice versa. We'll ship it from either plant to make the customer happy. How do we handle this attribute?

**Answer:** This attribute indicates where the Trade Item is available to the consumer – not where it is manufactured. This is a repeatable attribute so both countries should be listed.

## **Width**

**Description:** The measurement from left to right of a consumer trade item. For a non-consumer trade item, width is the shortest dimension of the natural base. Follow EAN.UCC Package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment. Appendix 1 of this document contains excerpts from the package measurement rules that further illustrate how to correctly obtain dimensional attributes for both types of trade items.

**Implementation Note:** When height, width and depth are populated, the UOM must match on all of the attributes (e.g. inches). Change to the width of an item cannot be more than 20% of the original value.

**Question:** How do we state width for wallboard products? The standards contradict themselves on consumer units' verses non-consumer units

**Answer:** The guidelines define two methods for obtaining dimensional attributes based on whether a trade item is a consumer trade item or a non-consumer trade item. Reference and follow EAN.UCC package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment. (Section 6.8 of the General EAN.UCC Specifications) The package measurement rules provide for a consistent and standardized methodology for measuring dimensions of a trade item, and are based on a reference

surface as further described in the general specifications. Those methods are different based on whether or not a trade item will pass through point-of-sale. Appendix 1 of this document contains excerpts from the package measurement rules that further illustrate how to correctly obtain dimensional attributes for both types of trade items.

**Question:** For bagged goods, do we state width as the bag sits on the pallet or as it is stood up on end?

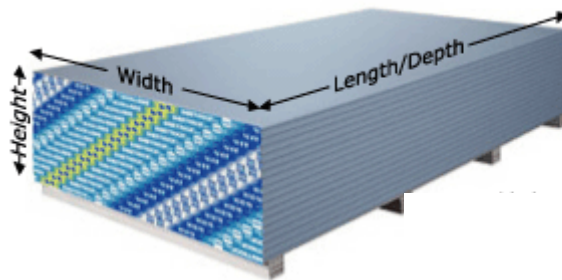
**Answer:** On bagged goods, Depth, Height and Width are determined by first identifying the default front. Depth is the measurement from front to back, Height is the measurement from top to bottom and Width is the measurement from left to right. Per the General Specifications document, product merchandising position does **NOT** determine how product is measured. Reference and follow EAN.UCC package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment. (Section 6.8 of the General EAN.UCC Specifications) The package measurement rules provide for a consistent and standardized methodology for measuring dimensions of a trade item, and are based on a reference surface as further described in the general specifications. Those methods are different based on whether or not a trade item will pass through point-of-sale. Appendix 1 of this document contains excerpts from the package measurement rules that further illustrate how to correctly obtain dimensional attributes for both types of trade items.

**Question:** On Joint Treatment products, different plants may utilize slightly different sized boxes to contain the same product using the same GTIN. None of these variations exceed the 20% variance allowed by the GTIN allocation rules. The retailers have said that they do not want separate GTINs for the same product shipped in slightly different boxes. How do we state this measurement?

**Answer:** A Hardlines industry best practice would be to utilize the largest size since this attribute impacts planograms, as long as the variation is less than 20%.

**Implementation Note:** As a Hardlines industry best practice, the measurement methodology decisions for Gypsum wallboard products will also apply to all panelized wood products such as plywood, plywood siding, prefinished paneling, hardboard, pegboard, particleboard, MDF, OSB, rigid insulation products and dimensional lumber.

Most if not all panelized wood products are typically merchandised with the long edge facing the consumer. Some of these products are branded and some are not. The long edge should be considered Depth. The short edge, or the measurement from front to back, should be considered as width. The thickness of the product should be considered as height.



**Implementation Note:** when considering palletized GTINs, the height of the pallet (or risers in Gypsum) **IS NOT INCLUDED** in the measurement.

**Question:** How are dimensions determined for bagged goods?

**Answer:** On bagged goods, Depth, Height and Width are determined by first identifying the default front. Depth is the measurement from front to back, Height is the measurement from top to bottom and Width is the measurement from left to right. Per the General Specifications document, product merchandising position does **NOT** determine how product is measured. Reference and follow EAN.UCC package Measurement Rules for Data Alignment. (Section 6.8 of the General EAN.UCC Specifications) The package measurement rules provide for a consistent and standardized methodology for measuring dimensions of a trade item, and are based on a reference surface as further described in the general specifications. Those methods are different based on whether or not a trade item will pass through point-of-sale. Appendix 1 of this document contains excerpts from the package measurement rules that further illustrate how to correctly obtain dimensional attributes for both types of trade items.

### **Trade Item Unit of Measure**

**Description:** Describes the measurement used for ordering or selling unit of the trade item such as each, pair, case, roll, set box, etc. The Trade Item's Unit of Measure is mandatory. A trade item may have only one Unit of Measure. How is this item sold – by box, by foot, by sheet?

**Question:** The latest version of the VICS Hardlines Data Attributes lists the description of the attribute differently than the earlier versions do. The new definition reads, “Describes the measurement used for selling unit of the trade item to the end consumer such as each, pair, case roll, set, box, etc. The trade item's Unit of Measure is mandatory on Consumer Units. A trade item may have only one Unit of Measure. How is this item sold (by box, by foot, by sheet)?” This is very different from the original version. Is this the stocking, selling or purchasing UOM? Lowe's and The Home Depot buy and sell the same products in different ways, for example, Lowe's purchases and sells molding by the piece; The Home Depot purchases the same molding by the hundred lineal feet (CLF) and sells it by the lineal foot (LF). The same scenario also applies to lumber which is purchased by the thousand board feet (MBF) and sold by the piece or lineal foot. What UOM are we supposed to put here?

**Answer:** This should be the retail selling UOM. The Gypsum industry is not impacted by this as most Gypsum products are sold as pieces, bags, rolls or buckets/pails.

## General Data Synchronization Questions:

**Question:** EAN.UCC Code and EAN.UCC Type are listed as mandatory attributes. Do we need to include these in our attribute listing?

**Answer:** Yes. The EAN.UCC Type is used as an attribute qualifier that identifies the type of EAN.UCC code being used (UP=UPC-A, UK=ITF-14). Examples include: “UP” qualifies consumer product code; “UK” qualifies case product code.

**Question:** Why is Out of Box Gross Weight necessary? The Gross Weight of a base item out of its box would be the same as the Net Weight of that base item as it is already described in the registry.

**Answer:** This has been revised. Now manufacturers only have to provide height, width and depth and a Boolean is offered that says if it is out of box.

**Question:** Why are QuantityOfInnerPack & QuantityOfNextLevelTradeItemWithinInnerPack: needed? In a standard example item hierarchy of item GTINs ‘A’ ‘B’ and ‘C’ where ‘A’ is the base item ‘B’ is an inner pack and ‘C’ is a pallet, the contained item quantity listed on ‘C’ already describes the quantityOfInnerPack and the contained item quantity on ‘B’ already describes the quantityOfNextLevelTradeItemWithinInnerPack. How does the use of these two attributes differ from the standard hierarchy relationships? (Only used with packs and inner packs that are not GTIN labeled).

**Answer:** Neither the quantityOfInnerPack nor the QuantityOfNextLevelTradeItemWithinInnerPack attributes are mandatory attributes. The current Standard is that InnerPacks do not have GTINs or barcodes assigned to them. However, it was decided upon by the community at the GSMP meetings in April 2004 that the Hardlines industry best practice going forward is to assign GTINs (NOT barcodes) to each InnerPack. There currently is a work in progress to get this officially changed in the Standards.

**Question:** BarCodeType & IsBarcodeOnThePackage: A number of items that bear bar codes have both a UPC-A and an I2o5 on the package serving both checkout and logistical purposes. In these instances, the item is flagged as a consumer unit, and Bar Code Type is set to reflect the UPC-A (ignoring the I2o5). Is this the preferred method for handling the situation?

**Answer:** Placing both the UPC-A and the ITF-14 on a case violates current EAN.UCC standards. The BarCodeType should be set to UPC-A. Manufacturers who must apply both types of bar codes on a case to meet retailer mandates should ensure that the two bar codes do not appear on the same surface to prevent confusion with distribution center and retail scanning systems. In addition, since a trade item may have only one identity, the bar codes must both carry the same information. See example below:

Trade Item UPC-A contains: 61414112345C

Trade Item ITF-14 contains: **00**61414112345C

**Question:** What about the customer's existing SKU's? Do we ever transmit this information? It would seem that in the beginning for data synchronization (on product that is already listed) this SKU number would be necessary, but I don't see a field for this data.

**Answer:** Currently there is no place to communicate the customer's SKU. Retailers match the GTIN to their legacy systems using EAN.UCC Code, which is why that is required to be transmitted in the EAN.UCC Code tag. Items already in trade with a customer are communicated as an Initial Item Load (tag name isReload?)

**Question:** Will data pool service providers facilitate the exchange of image files (the specifications as defined by the VICS identification subcommittee)?

**Answer:** Currently the image exchange capability does not exist but changes in the standards allow for the transmission of a URL for the location of images

**Question:** Do the retailers see any need for the Gypsum Manufacturers to populate the Variant attribute?

**Answer:** Variant is a situational attribute. It can be used to communicate additional information that differentiates one product from another.

**Question:** In cartons of drywall tape and 1 gallon ready mix that are UPC-A labeled, the products contained inside of each are UPC labeled as well (with different UPC-A Codes). Would quantityOfNextLowerLevelTradeItem be the number of rolls or gallons in the carton?

**Answer:** Yes. The gypsum manufacturers agreed to this at the HTF breakfast meeting. You may in fact have EACHES loaded onto a pallet with no layer in between. Whatever the NEXT LOWER LEVEL GTIN is on the pallet is what is populated here. If it were a carton of drywall tape, the quantity of cartons would be inserted here. If it was sheets of sheetrock (the EACH), then the number sheetrock sheets is the value entered here.

**Usage Guideline:**

Simply the number of units of a specific child GTIN. Note: This attribute is always linked to the previous attribute (GTIN) for each child being described. Again, it is repeatable; the "class" holds the distinction in the actual XML message.

**Examples:**

BASE\_UNIT\_OR\_EACH: A widget, at the each level, is considered the lowest level of a hierarchy. It contains no additional GTINs. However, the value populated here should always be a "1". In essence this value points back to itself.

PACK\_OR\_INNER\_PACK: This attribute repeats for every child GTIN. A package of 2 identical yellow widgets will have a value of "2" associated with the single child trade item (yellow widget EACH).

**CASE:** This attribute repeats for every child GTIN. A case of 24 identical yellow widgets will have a value of "24" associated with the single child trade item (yellow widget EACH).

**DISPLAY\_SHIPPER:** For a DISPLAY of red, green and blue widgets, the value of this attribute depends on the GTIN you are describing. For this example – we will describe a DISPLAY with 10 units including 3 red, 5 green and 2 blue widgets. REMEMBER THIS IS THE QUANTITY RELATED TO A SINGLE CHILD GTIN WITHIN THE MODULE. The proper quantity for this attribute (which follows the tradeItemIdentification of the RED widget) for RED would be 3. When associated with the BLUE child the quantity here would be 2, and when associated with the GREEN child the quantity would be 5.

**MIXED\_MODULE:** For a MODULE of red, green and blue widgets, the value of this attribute depends on the GTIN you are describing. For this example – we will describe a MODULE including 30 red, 50 green and 20 blue widgets. REMEMBER THIS IS THE QUANTITY RELATED TO A SINGLE CHILD GTIN WITHIN THE MODULE. The proper quantity for this attribute (which follows the tradeItemIdentification of the RED widget) for RED would be 30. When associated with the BLUE child the quantity here would be 20, and when associated with the GREEN child the quantity would be 50.

**PALLET:** This attribute repeats for every child GTIN. A pallet of 20 identical cases of yellow widgets will have a value of "20" associated with the single child trade item (yellow widget CASE).

**Question:** Where do we publish the results of our work in order to best share this information with the industry?

**Answer:** The results of our discussions will be entered into the implementation notes on the Hardlines Attribute listing. It has been suggested that we include all associated documentation (lists, tables, etc.) as attachments to this document. The Implementation committee requested that this document should be kept on the VICS website.

**Question:** We manufacture Cement Board in the US and Canada and ship orders to customers in the US and Canada from any plant. If we ship Cement Board from our Canadian plant to locations inside the US do we need to fill in the harmonizedTariffSystemIdentificationCode?

**Answer:** Yes, the Harmonized Tariff System Code should be provided for any/all exported orders. Since this attribute is a recursive attribute more than 1 value can be entered to cover multiple situations (ie: US to Canada and Canada to US).

**Question:** Are “quantityOfCompleteLayersContainedInATradeItem” and “quantityOfTradeItemsConatinedInACompleteLayer” required attributes on CASES or just on Pallets (i.e. cases of Drywall Tape and 1 gallon Ready Mix)?

**Answer:** These attributes are only applicable to Pallet level GTINs.

**Trade Item Measurement Matrix**

Trade Item Attribute	Trade Item Type	Description
<b>Height</b>  <b>Depth</b>  <b>Width</b>	Flexible Packaging  (Bagged Products)	<p>Flexible packaging must be measured with the item lying flat in order to evenly settle the contents. The measurements are then taken based on the consumer trade item’s Default Front. See consumer trade item for attribute descriptions and measurement methodology.</p> <p>Reference EAN.UCC General Specifications Section 6.8 (Package Measurement Rules For Data Synchronization) for bagged product exceptions such as plastic bags with sealed seams or hanging holes.</p>
	Consumer Trade Items  (Pass through Point-Of-Sale)	<p>The measurements are taken based on the consumer trade item’s default front The default front is the largest surface area of the product that carries the brand or product name to “sell” the product to the consumer. Some consumer trade items have more than one possible front with the same surface area. These products may be presented both vertically and horizontally on the retail shelf. If a consumer trade item has more than one possible front, the tallest front is considered to be the default Front. For consumer trade items with no marking such as clear plastic bags, the largest surface area is considered the Default Front. The <b>height</b> is measured from the absolute bottom or base to the absolute top. For those items with no marking, the largest “panel” by area is considered the default front, and the longest dimension is the height. The <b>width</b> is measured from the left to the right, and the <b>depth</b> is measured from the default front to the back of the trade item.</p> <p>Per the General Specifications document, product merchandising position does <b>NOT</b> determine how product is measured, but is based on a reference surface called the default front.</p>
	Non-Consumer Trade Items (Logistics <b>ONLY</b> Units)	<p>When measuring a Non-Consumer Trade Item, a specific surface must be established called the “Natural Base”. The Natural Base provides a point of reference for the measurement of all non-consumer trade item dimensions. The Natural Base is the bottom or natural underside of the trade item. Finding the Natural Base can be aided by the printing on the trade item, such as branding, “TOP” or “This End Up”. After the Natural Base has been established, it is possible to determine the height, width and depth of a non-consumer trade item in reference to the Natural Base. <b>Height</b> is measured from the Natural Base to the highest point. <b>Width</b> is the shorter of the two measurements of the Natural Base. <b>Depth (or Length)</b> is the longer of the two measurements of the Natural Base.</p>
	Palletized Items	<p>See non-consumer trade item for attribute descriptions and measurement methodology. At the pallet level the trade item height will <b>NOT</b> include the height of the pallet itself.</p>

<b>Trade Item Attribute</b>	<b>Trade Item Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Gross Weight</b>	<b>Required for ORDERABLE units only.</b>	Used to identify the gross weight of the trade item. The gross weight includes all packaging materials of the trade item. At the pallet level the trade item Gross Weight includes the weight of the pallet itself.
<b>Net Content</b>	<b>Required for CONSUMER units only.</b>	Net Content should reflect the amount of the Trade Item that is declared to the end consumer and printed on the product.
<b>Volume</b>	<b>Required for ORDERABLE units only.</b>	Measured as Height x Width x Depth (for XSD) and Height x Width x Length (for DTD).