Updated Feb 9, 2018

Kroger Manufacturing Shipping Container Labeling Requirements

Introduction:

Kroger has invested considerable effort and monies to modernize and re-engineer its manufacturing and distribution systems. The shipping container marking requirements detailed in this document have been implemented to specifically improve the flow of product into, and through, our manufacturing and distribution facilities to our customers.

This specification provides detailed instructions and requirements for the printing and placement of bar-coded receiving labels. These labels will be used for more efficient data capture, taking full advantage of Kroger's radio frequency capabilities.

At a minimum, **every pallet of product being delivered to a Kroger plant should contain one label**. One lot of one item grouped together on a pallet is often referred to as a "unit" and each unit must be separately labeled**.** Kroger Manufacturing's preference is **one "unit" of an item per pallet**. However, if there is a need for placing multiple units (lots) of an item on a pallet, each unit (lot) must be labeled separately **and approved** by your Kroger EDI Coordinator.

It is Kroger's intent to eliminate the necessity for the supplier to provide packing slips and other such paperwork associated with shipments made to Kroger facilities. In its place, an **ASN** (Advanced Ship Notice), sent via **EDI** (Electronic Data Interchange) will detail such information as:

Item on the pallet/unit, Quantity on pallet/unit, Number of pallets/units on a load, Lot number and manufactured date of each product, PO number-release, etc.

The contents of the label are of a standard format, as mandated by the "Application Standard for Shipping Container Codes", published by GS1 US. This standard provides label formats and technical specifications for printing labels.

Information can be obtained from their web site at http://www.gs1us.org

The Kroger Company will be using the SSCC18 format, which is the serial shipping container code. This 20 character bar-code is located at the bottom of the label and contains the following information:

- A two-digit application identifier, which should normally be "00" (zero-zero).
- A one digit packaging type code, which should be "0" (zero) for case or carton or "1" (one) for pallet.
- A manufacturer number, as assigned by the UCC (GS1).
- A unique number, as assigned by the supplier creating the label, to identify this group of product.
- A modulo 10 check digit, as calculated according to GS1 standards.

According to GS1 standards, the SSCC18 should be a unique number which does not repeat for a 3 year period. For further information contact your Kroger EDI Coordinator.

The GS1 website provides a check digit calculator:
http://www.gs1us.org/resources/tools/check-digit-calculator

LABEL REQUIREMENTS

Label Specifications:

Size of label:

The **minimum size** of the label for all incoming pallets is **4 inches tall and 6 inches wide**.

Type of label:

The label paper/material shall be pressure sensitive (adhesive backed). The printing shall be black ink on a white background for maximum contrast.

Data Specifications:

The size of the human readable characters for the Item Number and Unit Number shall be a minimum of 3/8 inch tall. The size of the human readable characters for the Product Description shall be a minimum of 1/8 inch tall. The size of the human readable characters for the Vendor Lot Number, Quantity, Unit of Measure, PO Release Number, Manufacturing Date, and Expiration Date shall be a minimum of 3/16 inch tall. The size of the field identifiers shall be 1/8 inch minimum. The human readable digits should be above the bar code. The characters shall be located within 1/8 to 1/2 inch of the field identifier. All alphabetic characters should be uppercase.

Bar code Specifications:

Code 128C is noted as the most compact symbology for encoding numeric data. The unit number and the SSCC18 shall be Code 128C. Code 128C is a subset of Code 128 and only translates numeric data. Kroger has chosen Code 128C as a standard throughout its plants. Code 128A (all uppercase data) will be used for any alphanumeric fields. Code 128B (all lowercase and uppercase data) will not be used. The height of the SSCC18 bar code shall be a minimum of 0.8 inches tall.

Note: General Data is a company which specializes in bar coding and automated data collection technologies. Several years ago, they worked with some Kroger suppliers to assist them with producing labels according to the specifications outlined in this document.

https://www.general-data.com/

Label Placement:

Placement on supplier container:

The label shall be securely affixed to the bottom left of the pallet, clearly visible (no wrinkles in sticker) and unobstructed to allow it to be easily scanned without unpacking or removing the container(s) from the pallet. **The label MUST BE scan-able under the pallet wrap.**

Labels must be applied directly to cases or bags, beneath stretch wrap. Special requirements may be needed for particular vendors that ship many containers on a pallet. Contact the Kroger EDI Coordinator

for any supplier specific requirements for label placement. In situations where the label cannot be applied to the container then a tag that attaches to the container may be used. Please ask if you are unsure about placement.

For small boxes or cartons, the bar code label should be applied to the lower left hand corner on the narrow side. Kroger product labels can be applied to right side of the box on the same facing as the bar code label.

For bulk products (such as sugar, salt, beans, etc.) only one bar coded tag should be placed on the pallet. The label shall be located on the bottom row of the product, under any extra exterior packaging such as stretch wrap. The label should be placed on the lower left hand corner along the narrower side of the pallet.

Label Content:

Data on label:

Vendor Name: *Required*. The Vendor Name is the name of the vendor or supplier that is providing the product to Kroger.

Item number**:** *Required.* The Kroger item number is the 6 digit number specified by the purchase order. It is commonly referred to as the IBM number or Resource number. The item number shall **not** contain any dashes (-) nor the two digit department prefix. The field identifier is **ITEM NUMBER.** There is no bar code for the item number.

Description: *Required.* The description is the item description. The field identifier is **PRODUCT DESCRIPTION.**

Unit number: *Required.* The unit number is a unique number assigned to the label that will be used for tracking shipments within Kroger plants. This 12 character number is made up of a six digit manufacturer identification number plus a six digit sequential number. The six digit manufacturer identification number is assigned by the Uniform Code Council and must match the SSCC18 positions 16 to 11 (see SSCC18 specifications below). No duplicate unit numbers are allowed within a reasonable time period. This must match the SSCC18 positions 7 to 2. The field identifier is **UNIT NUMBER:**

> Example: For Acme printing company the six digit supplier prefix is 312777. So their first unit number would be 312777000001. Their corresponding SSCC18 would be 0000**312777**000**000001**6.

Lot Number**:** *Required.* The lot number is a 10 digit alphanumeric field containing the vendor's internal product reference number. The field identifier is **LOT NUMBER.**

PO Number/release: *Preferred but not required.* The PO Number/release is the Kroger purchase order release number. The field identifier is **PO NUMBER/RELEASE.**

Quantity**:** *Required.* The quantity identifies the number of units contained within the container, pallet, or shipping carton. The field identifier is **QUANTITY.**

Unit of Measure: *Required.* The unit of measure field indicates the value of the units on the purchase order. The field identifier is **UOM**.

Manufactured Date: *Required.* The manufactured date shall be printed in the block to the right of quantity/uom. The date represents the production date of the product. The format shall be MMDDYY. The field identifier is **MFG DATE.**

Expiration Date: *Required for raw materials/ingredients.* The expiration date shall be printed in the block to the right of manufactured date. The date represents the expiration date of the product. The format shall be MMDDYY. The field identifier is **EXP DATE.**

SSCC18: *Required.* The SSCC18 (serialized shipping container code) represents a unique tracking identifier for this shipping container. The unique number is comprised of the 2 digit Application Identifier *(00)* followed by the 18 digit SSCC18 identification code. All 20 digits must be provided on the label. The field identifier is **SSCC-18:**

The table below shows all the components of the SSCC-18:

Position:	20 19	18	17 16 15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	1
Component:	Two-digit application identifier, should be 00	Packaging type code, where 0 = case/carton 1 = pallet	Manufacturer Number as assigned by GS1 (or Kroger)	Shipping Container Number as assigned by the supplier creating the label	Modelo 10 check digit

The Manufacturer Number (positions 17 to 11) should normally be assigned by the GS1. If this is a GS1 assigned number, position 17 will be “0” (zero). If it is not a GS1 assigned Manufacturer Number, position 17 will be “1” (one). If a supplier does not have a GS1 assigned Manufacturer Number, then Kroger can assign a “random” number. This will be done, however, at the risk of the supplier. If Kroger ever does business with a supplier who has a GS1 assigned Manufacturer Number that is the same as the one assigned by Kroger, the supplier using the number assigned by Kroger will be required to change their number and re-label their entire inventory. A letter must be signed by the supplier recognizing this responsibility. If Kroger assigns a number, the Kroger vendor number will be used (such as “D73954”), dropping the alpha prefix and suffixing it with a “0” (zero), resulting in an SSCC18 Manufacturer Number of “1739540”. Only the last 6 digits of this number will be used, however, when assigning the first half of the Unit Number (positions 16 to 11).

The Shipping Container Number (positions 10 to 2) should be a sequentially assigned. This allows for up to 1 billion numbers. However, only the last 6 digits of this number will be used when assigning the last half of the Unit Number (positions 7 to 2).

See below to see the breakdown of the SSCC-18 in the example:

Position:	20 19	18	17 16 15 14 13 12 11	10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2	1
Component:	Application identifier, should be 0 0	Packaging type code, where 0 = case/carton 1 = pallet	Manufacturer Number as assigned by GS1 (or Kroger)	Shipping Container Number as assigned by the supplier creating the label	Modelo 10 check digit
Example:	0 0	1	0 1 0 1 9 4 7 4 6	0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 2	1

Sample Portrait Bar Code Label for Manufacturing Suppliers
(Drawing not to scale - MIN 4" x 6")

ACME SUGAR COMPANY
2600 S. FREEMONT ST.
BAY CITY, MI 48706

ITEM NUMBER, PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
550001 SUGAR, FINE GRANULATED

UNIT NUMBER
194746000002

LOT NUMBER	PO NUMBER/RELEASE	
798071460	**K017834-012**	
QUANTITY/UOM	MFG DATE	EXP DATE
2500 LBS.	**020117**	**013119**

SSCC18 **00101947460000000021**

Sample Landscape Bar Code Label for Manufacturing Suppliers
(Drawing not to scale - MIN 4" x 6")

ACME SUGAR COMPANY	LOT NUMBER	PO NUMBER/RELEASE	
2600 S. FREEMONT ST.	**798071460**	**K017834-012**	
BAY CITY, MI 48706			
ITEM NUMBER, PRODUCT DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY/UOM	MFG DATE	EXP DATE
550001 SUGAR, FINE GRANULATED	**2500 LBS.**	**020117**	**013119**
UNIT NUMBER	SSCC18		
194746000002	00101947460000000021		