

AmerisourceBergen

Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)

Understanding GLN requirements and customer impact

One critical component of the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) effective November 27, 2023, is the requirement for the industry to use an international standard of tracking products throughout the supply chain. A Global Location Number (GLN) is required for all our customers to comply with the standard, defined by GS1. AmerisourceBergen customers, regardless of size or class of trade, will need a GLN to transact business with AmerisourceBergen or any other distributor.

What is a GLN?

Powered by GS1 Standards, the Global Location Number (GLN) provides businesses the ability to know who is involved in transactions and where things are located throughout the supply chain. By uniquely identifying parties and locations, the GLN helps with tracking products, optimizing processes, and providing greater visibility to shipments moving through the supply chain.

Why is a GLN important?

DSCSA requires the use of international standards as defined by GS1. The GLN (Global Location Number) identifies unique locations by assigning a unique 13-digit numeric code to each location.

- AmerisourceBergen cannot send information on the product without the standardized GLN for identification.
- AmerisourceBergen cannot complete the EPCIS file (Data file that contains serialized product shipment details for DSCSA covered items and represents transfer of ownership of materials included in the shipment) for your order without it. The purchase order will be marked incomplete without a GLN on file.
- Without a GLN, you will be out of compliance with the DSCSA federal regulation in 2023 and AB will not be able to transact business with you.

Who is required to have a GLN?

This GLN requirement is for all customers within the supply chain, regardless of where product is purchased. Every location that receives or dispenses product from any distributor will require a GLN. This includes secondary accounts that do business with us and all customers regardless of size.

How do you obtain a GLN?

AmerisourceBergen is in the process of reviewing all GLNs that are already enumerated through GS1 and updating your accounts within our database to reflect this information.

To ensure the continuity of shipments once DSCSA goes into effect in November, AmerisourceBergen and other distributors have purchased a group license through GS1, which enables us to apply a Global Location Number (GLN) for those who do not currently have a GLN or are unsure if they have a GLN.

What do you need to do if you do not have a GLN?

If you do not have a GLN or are unsure if you have one, AmerisourceBergen is proactively working on providing one for you. While there is no need for you to take any action at this time, it is still important to understand the purpose of a GLN.

Do you already have a GLN?

If you have your GLN information or obtain a GLN on your own, please send an email to SecureSupplyChain@amerisourcebergen.com and CC your sales rep with the following details:

- Account name
- Account number
- Account address
- GLN number
- DEA # (if available)

What do you do if you have a general question or update to your AmerisourceBergen account?

Please email SecureSupplyChain@amerisourcebergen.com and the AmerisourceBergen team will work with you to answer any questions or account updates you may have.

What do you do if you have a question or concern on updating a GLN through GS1?

If you need assistance finding your GLN or GLN account related questions, please reach out to gs1usdscsa@gs1us.org and the GS1 team will work with you to answer any questions you may have.

Additional resources

[GS1 GLN information](#)

[GS1 GLN Quick Start Guide](#)