

AAFES Global Product Catalogue Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

***Note: The catalogue will not be in use prior to 4th quarter 2009.**

No.	Question	Answer
1	AAFES' data sync letter to its suppliers states "only publish items that you sell to AAFES, not all your items." We publish items for other customers, how do I only publish AAFES specific items? Where are instructions on what I need to do?	The GXS Global Product Catalogue Service allows you to provide AAFES with "Limited Access" to your catalogue so that you can provide information on only those items that AAFES buys from you. For tips on granting "Limited Access", please visit http://www.gxs.com/aafes and select "Tips to grant AAFES access to your Global Product Catalogue service". You have two options for providing AAFES with "Limited Access" using the Global Product Catalogue Service: (1) GPC web interface; and (2) EDI 832 direct to the catalogue.
2	Why does AAFES require that I grant "Limited Access"? I grant "Unlimited Access" to other retailers.	AAFES' requirement is to only receive information on the items they purchase from their suppliers. Therefore, suppliers must select "Limited Access." If a supplier selects "Unlimited Access", they will be responsible for logging into the AAFES' portal and removing items that are not purchased by AAFES.
3	Why does AAFES require "Retail Specific" cost?	AAFES' cost (equivalent to what is on the Purchase Order) must be set-up in AAFES Merchandising System so AAFES needs suppliers to provide this information. AAFES cannot place a Purchase Order without AAFES' cost being entered in their Merchandising System.
4	We do not currently have dimension data. Why does AAFES require that we provide it?	Dimensional data is required to determine PO routing, warehouse storage space, maximize shipments from the AAFES' DC's to the supported stores, and planning shelf space in the stores.
5	How do I measure the item such as shirts, shoes, towels, etc..?	GS1 US recently published the Softlines Measurement Guidelines, which includes information on measuring products such as apparel, footwear, home fashions, accessories, kitchen, and sporting goods. The document can be downloaded from the GS1 US web site at http://barcodes.gs1us.org/default.aspx?tabid=281 .
6	I have more than one Vendor Code. How do I handle this?	GPC only supports entering one "Vendor Code". You should enter the Vendor Code for the item(s) that you most frequently sell to AAFES.
7	I have more than one Country of Origin. How do I handle this?	GPC only supports entering one "Country of Origin". You should enter the "Country of Origin" for the item(s) that you most frequently sell to AAFES.
8	I have more than one ship from location. How do I handle this?	While this is an optional attribute, GPC only supports entering one "Ship From" location. You should enter the "Ship From" location for the item(s) that you most frequently sell to AAFES and it must be applicable for the Vendor Code that you entered. All additional ship from locations should be provided to your AAFES buyer.
9	Can you retrieve my data if I am not using the GXS Global Product Catalogue Service (GPC)? For example, if I am using Inovis?	AAFES will accept data from GXS Global Product Catalogue Service (GPC) or any GDSN-certified data pool. However, if you are not using GPC, you will need to ensure that you can provide all of the "Required" and applicable "Conditional" attributes through your GDSN-certified data pool.
10	Other retailers I do business with do not require as many attributes as AAFES requires. Why does AAFES need this information?	Business requirements vary from retailer to retailer. The attribute information that AAFES is requesting is needed by AAFES to conduct business with their suppliers.
11	How do I populate data using the GXS Global Product Catalogue Service (GPC)?	You have two options for populating your data in the GXS Global Product Catalogue Service: (1) GPC web interface; and (2) EDI 832.

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12	What is the deadline date for complying with AAFES' Data Synchronization initiative?	AAFES recommends that you begin the preparation process immediately by reviewing the list of "AAFES' Required Attributes" and start gathering your attribute data. The specific deadline will be communicated to suppliers through an email notification. If you have questions, please contact your Buyer.
13	Where do I find the NRF color and size codes?	GPC subscribers can choose to subscribe to the GXS NRF Color & Size Codes On-Line service. There is an annual subscription fee for unlimited usage. You use the same online Company Alias, User ID, and Password logon information for both GPC and GXS NRF Color & Size Codes On-Line, if you subscribe to both services. For pricing information, please contact the GXS sales team at 800334-2255, option 3.
14	Is there a fee for GXS' Global Product Catalogue (GPC) Service? If so, what is the fee?	There is a fee for GXS' Global Product Catalogue Service. For pricing information, please contact the GXS sales team at 800-334-2255, option 3.
15	What is the cash register description?	The "cash register description" appears on the cash register receipt. It is a free-form, short length description (18 character limit) of the trade item that clearly describes the item.
16	AAFES contacted me to change a trade item description which I am already using with another retailer. Why would AAFES request that I make a change?	AAFES reviews and interprets the description provided. If AAFES feels that it does not clearly describe the product, AAFES may contact you to modify the data.
17	I have entered my attributes in the catalogue. Will I have to re-enter the data in the AAFES' web portal?	No, you will not need to re-enter the data in the AAFES web portal. For GPC users, all required attributes can be populated via the catalogue and there is no need to go to the web portal. If you cannot provide all of the required attributes via your catalogue, some of the requirements (e.g. Cost and Vendor ID) can be met by using the web portal. If these attributes are missing in your catalogue, you will be contacted by AAFES.
18	What do I use for the hazardous attributes? Do they apply to me?	Please review the AAFES' required attribute document for the list of hazardous attributes (Go to www.aafes.com/edi , Select "Data Synchronization", and Select "GPC"). Please note that if one hazardous attribute (dangerous goods) is populated than all hazardous attributes must be populated.
19	What are the benefits to me for complying with AAFES' Data Synchronization Initiative?	To improve supplier relations and remove inefficiencies from our supply chain, AAFES has embarked on an important new initiative called item data synchronization. Item data synchronization is the automated exchange of product information between buyers and sellers. By having accurate, synchronized data in both the AAFES and vendors' databases, all parties achieve economic benefits resulting from fewer invoice and purchase order errors, reduced manual data entry, and faster delivery of new items to our stores.
20	I am missing some of the required AAFES attributes, how can I identify what information is missing?	There is a GPC Vendor GTIN Compliance Report that will provide a list of all non-compliant GTINs indicating which AAFES attribute is missing for that particular GTIN. The following is key information about this report: (1) To request the report, contact GXS Customer Support at 800-334-2255, extension 3000 or send an email to gpcsupport@gxs.com ; (2) Each report provides up to 1,000 GTINS that do not conform to AAFES' requirements; (3) An Email output is provided ; (4) The cost is \$100 per report; and (5) It is recommended that you request a report before and after the load process to ensure full compliance is achieved.