AAFES Data Pool
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

No.	Question	Answer
1	When will AAFES be ready to accept "Initial Loads"?	AAFES is currently accepting initial loads from any supplier that is set up with a GDSN-certified data pool.
2	What is the role of GS1?	GS1 is a global standards body comprised of member organizations around the world. It develops and ratifies standards for global data synchronization and other electronic commerce business processes through the Global Standards Management Process (GSMP).
3	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.
4	How do I measure an item?	GS1 US has published GDSN Package Measurement Rules which establish global standards for the unambiguous definition of nominal package measurement attributes. The standards facilitate communication of linear dimensions and weights for retail and non-retail products from the consumer unit to the non-consumer (case) level and all intermediate packaging levels in between, as well as provides a repeatable process to determine measurements for a given product package when measured by different individuals. The document can be downloaded from the GS1 US website at http://barcodes.gs1us.org/default.aspx?tabid=281.
5	May I use any data pool or are there only specific ones I can use?	You may use any GDSN-certified data pool.
6	We are on Inovis, not GXS. Can you retrieve my data?	AAFES has partnered with GXS and their preferred solution provider 1SYNC Onboard Support. AAFES will accept data from any GDSN-certified data pool or GXS Global Product Catalogue Service (GPC). If you are using a GDSN-certified data pool, you will need to ensure that you can provide all of the "Required" and applicable "Conditional" attributes.
7	I have more than one vendor code. How should I handle this?	You can only use one "Vendor Code" per item in the supplier's portal for the new item induction.
8	I have more than one Country or Origin. How do I handle this?	We only accept one Country of Origin at this time.
9	I have more than one ship from location. How do I handle this?	While this is an optional attribute, you can only enter one "Ship From" location at this time. 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.
10	Other retailers I do business with do not require as much data as AAFES. 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	Can I enter my items directly on AAFES' web portal?	Manual entry is only a suggested option for suppliers with 10 or less GTINs.
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 AAFES buyer or send questions to zhqsdeprescreen@aafes.com.
13	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, as well as reduced transportation cost.

AAFES Data Pool
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

No.	Question	Answer
14	What is data synchronization?	Data synchronization is the automated exchange of product information between buyers and sellers (e.g. GTIN, description, color, and dimensions).
15	What is a GTIN (Global Trade Item Number)?	A GTIN is the globally unique GS1 System identification number for products and services. A Global Trade Item Number may be 8, 12, 13, or 14 digits in length, represented as GTIN-8, GTIN-12, GTIN13, and GTIN-14 respectively.
16	What is a GLN (Global Location Number)?	A GLN is the globally unique GS1 System identification number for legal entities, functional entities, and physical locations. The Global Location Number is 13 digits, which comprise a GS1 Company Prefix, Location Reference, and Check Digit. Supply side trading partner locations generally include corporate headquarters, regional offices, warehouses, plants, and distribution centers. Demand side trading partner locations generally include corporate headquarters, divisional offices, stores, and distribution centers.
17	What is GPC (Global Product Classification)?	A Global Product Classification is the GS1 System standard for the classification of products. GPC is a 'flat' classification system based on bricks, attributes, and values. GPC is a required element of the Global Data based on bricks, attributes, and values. GPC is a required element of the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN).
18	Who are some US GDSN-certified data pools?	1SYNC Onboard Support is a GDSN-certified data pool. To view a list of additional GDSN-certified data pools, log onto http://www.gs1.org/gdsn. Select "List of GDSN certified data pools".
19	What item attributes do I need to send?	AAFES' attribute requirements document is posted on the AAFES Data Synchronization website. To review the document: (1) Go to www.aafes.com/edi; (2) Select "Data Synchronization"; (3) Select "GDSN - Attributes required for Certified Data Pool users".
20	What do I need to do to comply?	There are five steps that you should follow as part of the compliance process. They include: (1) Prepare and organize your item data by gathering the attribute information that is required by AAFES; (2) Load and register your item data with GS1; (3) Provide AAFES with information required for the subscription process by completing the "Trading Partner Data Sheet" and send via email to: zzhqsdeprescreen@aafes.com; (4) Publish your data via your data pool (AAFES' GLN is 0614299000018); (5) Receive Catalogue Item Confirmation (CIC).
21	What is a CIN (Catalogue Item Notification)?	A CIN is a business message used to transmit trade item information from a Data Source to a Data Recipient.
22	What is a CIS (Catalogue Item Subscription)?	A CIS is a business message within the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) used to establish a request from a Data Recipient to a Data Source for the update of trade item information on a continuous basis.
23	How much does it cost to join and use a Data Pool?	Each data pool has its own pricing model. For 1SYNC, fees are based upon total sales volume, not just business with AAFES. For more information you can call 1-800-698-3266, Option 3.
24	How is AAFES going to subscribe to my Item Data?	AAFES plans to subscribe at the GLN and GPC level. Some exceptions may exist where we would need to subscribe at other levels.
25	Can I enter unit of measure in either metric or imperial?	Yes, either metric or imperial can be used. AAFES will automatically convert the information to imperial.

AAFES Data Pool
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

No.	Question	Answer
26	Are there any maximum length limitations imposed by AAFES which differ from the GDSN standard?	(1) descriptionShort - AAFES will truncate after 20 characters; (2) tradeItemDescription - AAFES will truncate after 28 characters; (3) OrderQuanityMaximum - AAFES will only accept 8 characters for this attribute. If more than 8 characters are sent, the additional data will be represented as a decimal.
27	Do I need to enter any information via AAFES web portal?	For NEW ITEMS, you will need to enter additional attributes via the web portal. This information is included in AAFES' Data Synchronization Attributes document. To review the document: (1) Go to www.aafes.com/edi ; (2) Select "Data Synchronization"; (3) Select "GDSN - Attributes required for Certified Data Pool users". For EXISTING ITEMS, no entry via the web portal is needed.
28	AAFES' data sync letter to its suppliers states "only publish items to the data pool 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?	A GDS Rollout team member can provide you with the items that are currently in the AAFES system. You can use this to help determine the items that will need to be published. If needed, you can contact the sales representative to get a confirmed list. Once you have the items prepared, you will have them published to the AAFES GLN through your data pool provider.
29	What CIC response messages does AAFES send?	You will receive a Catalogue Confirmation (CIC) notice from AAFES via your data pool. The response codes sent include: (1) ACCEPTED - Item has been approved by the buyer and sent to AAFES' back-end system; (2) REJECTED - Item has been rejected by the buyer for reasons such as unauthorized item; (3) Review – item is under review by the buyer; (4) Synchronized – item has matched and is accepted.

Revised: 03/17/09