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1. Definition of a GIAI

'The GS1 Identification Key used to identify an individual Asset. The key is comprised of a GS1 Company Prefix and Individual Asset Reference.'

Global Individual Asset Identifier (GIAI) is one of the two GS1 keys for asset identification. GIAI is used to identify fixed assets. This could be a computer, a desk or a component part of an aircraft. It enables assets to be individually recorded as part of a fixed asset inventory control system.

In simple terms this means any individual asset within a company of any value that needs to be identified uniquely.

The GIAI is a unique identification key that can be used globally to identify the asset. Detailed information regarding the asset will be recorded in a database and the GIAI is the key that provides the link to that information. It may be produced as a GS1-128 bar code, or held in a GS1 EPC tag or used in a database.

The function of a GIAI is to provide an identification point which can be used to retrieve information held in a database associated that particular asset.

1.1. Key GIAI attributes

The GIAI will identify each individual asset **uniquely** thus ensuring that it is always identified correctly anywhere within a business or the world. Each asset is allocated a unique serial number or individual asset number to ensure that it can be identified separately. The GIAI itself has no meaning and this allows the asset to be **looked-up** in a database and its associated information retrieved at any point or location. GIAs will work in any business sector. Having a unique identifier for an asset allows business to identify, track and manage their assets. As it is based on the GS1 system using Company Prefix and a serial number allocation of numbers is simple and uniqueness guaranteed.

If you are a business that wants to track and manage its assets GIAI is a simple tool to enable this. Assets may have their GIAI in either a bar code or GS1-EPC tag.

1.2. Benefits of using GIAI

- GIAI is already an established standard for identifying all fixed assets
- It identifies the asset ownership for the life of the asset
- It is a simple asset coding system to facilitate asset management systems with almost limitless capacity
- Utilises GS1 standards as used in many other business applications
- Essential accurate unique asset management control
- Allows business to develop asset management systems to improve profitability
- Is a guard against counterfeit activity
- Ability to add additional information such as date codes, weight, batch numbers etc



- **PROVIDES ACCURACY, CONTROL AND EFFICIENCY FOR YOUR BUSINESS**

1.3. GIAI Structure

GIAIs are composed of a Application Identifier (8004), a GS1 Company Prefix and a Individual Asset Reference

Global Individual Asset Identifier		
Application Identifier	GS1 Company Prefix	Individual Asset Reference
8004	N _{1.....} N	X.....Variable length.....x

Application Identifier AI 8004 to indicate GIAI

GS1 Company Prefix A globally unique number assigned to a GS1 member company

Individual Asset Reference The serial number assigned by a member company to the asset

 **Note:** GIAI is for **fixed** assets. For **returnable** assets see GS1 Key GRAI (Global Returnable Asset Identifier)

For further information on GS1 Application Identifiers please contact your local GS1 Member Organisation.

2. GIAI Applications

GIAI can be used in many areas of business where asset tracking and identification is important. They provide a quick way to identify an asset which then can be looked up in a database and its use, location or state can recorded. The look-up may typically be for asset stock reconciliation, to update a service record or to assign an asset to a user or location.

The following are some typical uses of GIAI in business applications. The list is not exhaustive but shows the most common use and how GIAI when combined with GS1 standards has become an integral part of modern business applications:

2.1. At a Business in a GS1 BarCode or EPC tag

- On all fixed assets at a Head Office. Computers, printers, tables, chairs etc
 - GIAI is scanned whenever you need to identify an asset
 - Enables quick look-up in Database
 - GIAI can also be scanned to record change of user or component upgrade such as latest software or service.
 - GIAI may be scanned to record new locations and assigned users of assets after an office re-organisation

2.2. At a Warehouse in a GS1 BarCode or EPC tag

- On pallets trucks and loading equipment
 - GIAI scanned to identify specific asset
- Any other fixed assets such as computers and furniture

3. Useful further information

3.1. GS1 Member Organisations

Your local GS1 Member Organisation is the ideal contact for information on the benefits that GIAI can deliver to your business. In addition they will be able to provide you with further information on all of GS1 standards. Full details can be found on: <http://www.gs1.org/contact/worldwide.php>

3.1.1. GS1 Global Office

- Further information on all GS1 standards is available on the GS1 Global site: <http://www.gs1.org/>
- A step by step guide useful to users who wish to allocate GIAI and associated bar codes for the first time: <http://www.gs1.org/productssolutions/barcodes/implementation/>
- GS1 on line training is available via GS1 Learn is the area where you can learn on-line how GTIN and all other areas of the GS1 system work: <http://learn.gs1.org/portal3/index.asp>