

Visibility in the Cash Supply Chain

Standards for Speed, Accuracy, and Trust

Even as digital payments continue to grow, cash remains a vital part of our modern economy. It provides privacy, fosters financial inclusion, and reinforces economic stability and resilience. For stakeholders across the cash supply chain—including financial institutions, armored carriers, retailers, and Federal Reserve Banks—having accurate, real-time visibility into the location and status of cash is critical.

Cash tracking can be approached much like package tracking in a logistics network. Just as packages are assigned unique identifiers and scanned throughout their journey to provide real-time updates, cash assets can be identified and monitored using standardized GS1 identifiers. This enables seamless traceability and enhances visibility across the entire supply chain.

GS1 Standards offer a consistent framework for end-to-end traceability when applied across the cash ecosystem. The Cash Visibility Subcommittee, along with members of the Cash Advisory Council—including both local and national banks and major armored carriers—have committed to collaborating toward full adoption of GS1 Standards for Cash Visibility. This collective effort marks a significant step toward modernizing cash operations and unlocking new levels of efficiency, transparency, and trust.

Read their [joint statement](#). It reflects the industry's commitment as of late 2024, and implementation efforts continue to advance.

The Challenge of Complexity

The cash supply chain is a complex network involving the Federal Reserve, armored carriers, financial institutions, retailers, and other cash-related businesses. Each stakeholder plays a vital role in ensuring that cash moves securely and efficiently from one point to another. Yet, coordinating this movement while maintaining operational efficiency poses significant challenges.

GS1 Standards provide a proven framework to help streamline operations across this network. By applying GS1 identifiers, stakeholders can help reduce manual errors,





minimize delays, and enhance the speed and reliability of cash movement. This standards-based approach not only improves traceability but also strengthens collaboration and trust across the entire supply chain.

The Benefits of Traceability

Implementing a standardized traceability framework unlocks powerful advantages for both operational efficiency and regulatory compliance. With real-time visibility into the location and status of cash assets, stakeholders across the supply chain can plan and coordinate shipments with greater precision. By adopting globally recognized identifiers, organizations can shift away from outdated, manual practices—such as paper manifests at Federal Reserve docks—and embrace digital tracking that supports seamless, end-to-end traceability.

The Role of GS1 Standards

GS1 Standards, particularly Global Location Numbers (GLNs) and Serial Shipping Container Codes (SSCCs), can help realize these benefits. GLNs are unique identifiers for locations, such as branch offices, ATMs, and vaults, while SSCCs are unique identifiers for logistic units, such as cash bags. By assigning GLNs to each location and SSCCs to each cash bag, stakeholders across the supply chain can enable more consistent

traceability and better coordination across the cash supply chain.

Document and verify each step

GLNs and SSCCs provide a standardized way to track the movement of cash and assets from one location to another, and everything that happens in between.

Process cash faster and improve accuracy

With standardized identifiers, stakeholders can streamline how they operate, help reduce manual errors, and optimize their logistics operations.

Improve Traceability and Response Time

Standards make it easier to track the movement of funds and quickly address any issues across the supply chain, reducing the chance for errors.

Enhancing cash visibility with GS1 Standards.

Depending on your operational needs, you may choose to license individual GLNs or opt for a GS1 Company Prefix to support broader identification. If you're using generic, white-label cash bags and only need to identify one or a few locations, licensing individual GLNs may be sufficient. For organizations that manage both locations and in-house cash bags, a GS1 Company Prefix provides the flexibility to create all GS1 identification keys—including GLNs and SSCCs—supporting traceability across your cash supply chain.

Take the next step toward greater visibility—explore how GS1 Standards can support your cash operations.
Learn more about GS1 US and Cash Visibility

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GDTI: 0614141030279v1.0