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Subject: Product Classification

Gentlemen:

I'm writing to recommend that the Specialized Section evaluates whether the United Nations Standard Product and Service Code (UNSPSC) could play a role in further developing an international coding system for the procurement of Porcine Meats and other Fresh Food / Perishable Products.

At the same time, GS1 (EAN International and UCC) strongly recommends that the Specialized Section assess the role the Global Product Classification (GPC) could play a role in further developing an international coding system for the procurement of Porcine Meats and other Fresh Food / Perishable Products.

GPC is a mandatory component of the Global Data Synchronization Network (GDSN) and incorporates the already required "Brick Attributes" and "Brick Attribute Values".

Please note that UNSPSC and GPC are not competing, but are complementary systems.

The projected alignment benefits are for:

1. Manufacturers, Retailers, Associations

- Better communication
- Global Data Synchronization Network opportunity for retailers and manufacturers
- Access to both schemas
- Efficiency improvement with complexity reduction
- Opportunity to actively participate in classification development

2. UNSPSC user community

- Allow the UNSPSC community to leverage the expertise of GPC to improve / maintain the code
- Provide users with greater specificity / granularity or “drill-down” for commodities

3. GPC user community

- Is linked to a broader global standard
- Establishes a role in UNSPSC to define commodities
- Enable a higher classification or “roll-up” of Bricks

I'm attaching the actual GPC schema for information. I would like to also highlight that Mr Doug Bailey of the USDA has been briefed on the GPC as well.

Mr Zoltan Patkai, will be attending the meeting of the Specialized Section as the representative of EAN International (GS1).

Mr Greg Rowe, representing the UNSPSC, will also attend the meeting.

For more information about the GPC and UNSPSC, please feel free to contact both of my colleagues.

Sincerely yours,

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