

# GS1 Global Location Number (GLN)



With the start of audits to IFS Food version 7 having a GLN became mandatory for companies in the European Economic Area (EEA) and the United Kingdom and Switzerland. It is specified in Part 4 and applies to the subsequent versions of the IFS Food Standard.

## What is a GLN?

The Global Location Number (GLN for short) is like a fingerprint in national and international business transactions. With a GLN, companies and parts of companies, such as production sites or warehouses, can be clearly identified. Within the scope of IFS Certification, the GLN identifies the location for which a certificate is sought.

Visit the [GS1 website](#) for more information about the [GLN](#).

## Does my company need a GLN?

The GLN is only mandatory for the **IFS Food Standard**. Your company needs the GLN if the location is in a country belonging to the **EEA or in the UK or Switzerland** as defined in the IFS Food Standard and Doctrine.

## Why does my company need a GLN?

The GLN appears on the cover page of the IFS Report and on the IFS Food Certificate. It optimises communication between food suppliers and retailers. The GLN clearly defines to which company, and to which site the certificate refers. Furthermore, it contributes to increasing the security and verifiability of the IFS Certificates. Forged certificates can be detected and combated more quickly through a digital comparison.

## Where can I get a GLN?

You can order your GLN from the GS1 organisation in your country. Find all GS1 member organisations [here](#). These are direct links to GS1 member organisations in [France](#), [Germany](#), [Italy](#), and [Spain](#).

## Can I use one GLN for several locations?

For the GLN to uniquely identify a location, a GLN may only be assigned to one location at a time. Otherwise, it is not possible to differentiate between different locations. The use of a GLN for several locations, therefore, violates the GS1 General Specifications.

Should you need more GLNs, please contact the responsible [GS1 member organisation](#).

## How can I check the GLN?

GS1 operates a database, Verified by GS1, in which you can find companies and their locations via its respective GLN. Your GLN is active in Verified by GS1 if you are a current customer of GS1. To use a GLN for IFS Food Certification, you must ensure it is registered and active in Verified by GS1. In addition, the company name and address must correspond exactly with the information on the certificate so that IFS and your business partners can verify the authenticity of your GLN and the IFS Certificate.

Check whether your GLN is active in [Verified by GS1](#).

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