



ECCC



FCPMC · FPACC



ALL SYSTEMS GO FOR ECCnet

With the decision this past July by the majority of trading partners from each of retail chain pharmacy, drug wholesaling, retail grocery and foodservice to commit to adopt ECCnet as an industry standard, vendors and retailers both have been busy getting their information and systems ready.

With more than 100 contracts signed this past summer on both sides of the trading partnership, retail grocery - or as it is known in the catalogue business - Fast Moving Consumer Products & Food - are the first to load, with a contracted commitment of December 31, 2001.

To help pharmacy suppliers understand the current and future phases of ECCnet, ECRx hosted a sold-out breakfast session on September 17th in Toronto. The heavy turnout clearly demonstrated that the pharmacy sector is taking the launch of ECCnet very seriously.

To ensure ECCnet is designed to meet the growing data needs of the pharmacy industry, a *Pharmacy User Committee* will be structured to determine the data elements that will comprise "Subset #2" of the database. *Subset 2* builds out Master Data Product Records in a centralized, standardized fashion beyond the initial 38 ECCnet data fields. Manufacturers with OTC and front-shop products are already able to load data as the initial fields serve both retail grocery and retail pharmacy suppliers and represent the contractual commitment of some 87

manufacturers from FCPMC (Food & Consumer Products Manufacturers of Canada) who are well on their way. The Pharmacy User Committee will work to set and standardize additional elements for Rx products with a target date of Spring 2002.

"It's absolutely important that everyone in the supply chain gets aboard ECCnet," says Shoppers Drug Mart Vice-President of Logistics Mike Corey. "The whole thing would go nowhere without the full participation of manufacturers. We no longer have the resources or time to work with hard copy, nor can we afford the mistakes we incur. For suppliers as well as retailers, the resources saved through ECCnet will be much more profitably devoted to building our businesses." At the all-important wholesale level, Gord Ferguson, Director of Business Partner Solutions at Medis, says, "As an integrator in the pharmaceutical supply chain, Medis is a strong proponent of ECCnet." He explains, "The ability to receive accurate and comprehensive supplier product information, which was either not previously provided or was too labour-intensive to enter into our system, will allow us to implement operational improvements, such as warehouse automation. This will definitely help increase our efficiency and ultimately provide our customers with the best possible service."

Speaking as one of the first manufacturers to load data into the ECCnet Product Registry, Tim Penner,

ECCnet...

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ECCnet BENEFITS

- Retailers are advised immediately when vendors update their databases
- User handling minimized, data integrity maximized
- Loading rules are pre-determined and shared by all
- Expedited information - closes gaps that occur as Category Managers wait to hear from sales reps
- Simplified data handling and storage
- "Matched" data between vendor and retailer databases
- No More Surprises !

President of Procter & Gamble, can barely contain his enthusiasm: "It is great to see people getting on with it! They've signed their promissory notes, assembled teams and picked their Catalogue Captains. They're getting their people into Education and choosing the loading option that will get them there by December 31." Mr. Penner adds, "At last, we can look forward to a country catalogue of our own, where complete and accurate data on any of our products sits ready and waiting to go."

The Electronic Commerce Council of Canada (ECCC), the manager of ECCnet, has begun a series of hirings to lend momentum and expertise to the implementation of ECCnet. Joe Zenobio has been appointed Chief Operating Officer of ECCnet. Also announced was the appointment of Paul Osland as Senior Account Executive for the pharmacy channel.

As a first step, manufacturers and wholesalers are asked to visit the Website eccnet.org and register online for the ECCnet Vendor Education.

ECCnet DATA LOADING OPTIONS

There are now five convenient options for loading Master Data into an ECCnet Product Listing. From easy-to-use "flat files" or Excel templates to full systems integration using the industry standard VICS 832 Master Data Alignment EDI transaction set. Call Paul Osland, ECCnet Sr. Account Manager for Pharmacy at ECCnet for more information, 416-510-8039, ext. 2219; or email paulo@eccc.org.

BARCODING UPDATE

ADJUST YOUR DATA BASE TO INCLUDE 14 DIGITS

Effective 2005, all 140 countries of the EAN/UCC system will have moved to the 14-digit structure known as GTIN. The Global Trade Item Number encompasses all codes in a standardized 14-digit structure. North American retailers and distributors will need to adjust databases to accommodate the new 14 digit structure - a current requirement for those already storing SCC14s for cases. Bar codes remain exactly the same as they are on today's packages, but the code it represents should be housed in your system as a 14-digit structure, zero-filling the first two left positions. Importers will no longer need to apply for North American 12-digit codes as all

participating countries will recognize the universal standard GTIN structure. More information is available on the eccc.org website.

IT'S HERE – BABY BAR CODES

Also known as the "baby bar code" this new family of seven symbologies uses omni-directional symbols and the 14-digit GTIN. These small symbols have been endorsed as a worldwide standard by the EAN/UCC system and are the product identification answer for small items such as prescription vials and variable weight products such as meat and produce. More information is available at eccc.org.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DATA IS?

Excerpted from ECCnet Data Loading Guidelines

Early learnings from pilot participants suggest that a review of existing data elements is an important first step. Where do reps currently get the data to populate customer listing forms? Multiple data sources can mean more work to consolidate and centralize. Begin by extracting the data elements to a spreadsheet for easier analyses, particularly if more than one department will be involved in the review and confirmation. The spreadsheet allows for the ability to sort, filter and compare the different sets of data housed at your organization. A template spreadsheet is one of the five data loading options available from ECCnet. Once extracted, validate that:

- All U.P.C. codes are available
Note: House in your legacy system using the new 14-digit GTIN data structure by zero-filling the left two positions. Bar Code symbols as they appear on packages with a human readable 12-digit remain unchanged.
Note: Assign U.P.C.s at the dosage level
- All SCC14 codes are available
- All marked Inner Pack codes are available
- Data structure is consistent (all with a check digit, or all without)
- All codes occur only once (no duplicates)
- All codes can be attributed to unit dose, consumer item, inner pack, case or pallet

Data readiness also includes the ability to cross-reference GTINs (dose level to U.P.C. to inners to cases to pallets). Experience has shown that 80% of the data organization effort may flow from the 20% of products that fall outside the standard packaging configurations.

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