

AS Vinmonopolet's requirements and guidelines for barcode labelling

Barcode labelling of CU (bottles) and TU (cases)

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Introduction

AS Vinmonopolet (The Norwegian Wine and Spirits Monopoly) uses barcodes for multiple purposes: reception of goods, sales & returns, for retail display fixtures and its mobile app. To achieve this, we depend on correct barcode labelling of each bottle and case, with a unique and readable code.

Lack of correct labelling can cause unnecessary delays and overheads in the whole supply chain, as our staff will have to manually punch item codes. This is both time consuming and expensive. We hereby present our requirements for barcode labelling. Our requirements reflect today's norm, as well as guidelines from GS1.

Barcode standards

Most barcode standards are developed by GS1. Examples of such barcodes are: EAN-13, UPC-A/E, ITF-14 and GS1-128.

The barcode is a unique identifier for every product. We require that both consumer unit (CU) and trade unit (TU) are labelled with a unique Global Trade Item Number (GTIN).

This entails that it is not satisfactory to use the same barcode for bottles and cases. The barcode will be permanently attached to the item number first registered. Our flexibility to delete or change existing GTIN in our registry is limited. This is standard for Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems.

Vinmonopolet's General Purchasing terms and conditions:

Section 6.3 Labelling of goods

Cases (TU) are marked with legible product names, manufacturer, Vinmonopolet's article number, GTIN code in accordance with GS1 standard, and identification number (Lot number). Vinmonopolet will inform our suppliers of any changes as to which codes are accepted. Labelling placement is preferred on one long side and one short side. Quality, design, placement and technical design of the barcode are in accordance to the GS1 standard.

For CU (consumer unit) the bottle's regular label, lot number and a GTIN code sufficient labelling on the cylindrical part of the bottle.

Vinmonopolet sets the fee for lacking or faulty barcode labelling.

Special guidelines for barcode placement on Bag-in-Box (BiB)

To reduce the risk of repetitive strain injuries at Point of Sale (POS), we wish a uniform placement of the barcodes on BiB products. We encourage manufacturers to keep this in mind when developing and producing packaging for BiB. The barcode is preferably placed toward the bottom of the short end, on the opposite side of the tap.

Requirements and guidelines for labelling of Consumer Unit (bottle)

AS Vinmonopolet requires 100% labelling of consumer units. This applies to all our product selections. AS Vinmonopolet accepts the following barcodes for CU: **EAN-8, EAN-13, UPC-A and UPC-E.**

Size and shape of the bottle varies, which in turn alters the legibility of the barcode. AS Vinmonopolet require that the quality of the printed barcode at least meets the ISO/IEC standard 15416, grade B. GS1 International has recommendations regarding the size of the barcode for each of the most common barcode symbols in the wine and spirits business. The design of the barcode must meet our requirements of legibility.

It is preferable that the barcode is oriented vertically on the label, known as ladder format. This negates the effect of warping due to the bottles shape. It must be placed on the cylindrical part of the bottle, easily visible, not underneath.

If any additional packaging is covering the barcode, this packaging must also be equipped with the same CU barcode. Note that any additional packaging must be of a protective character, and not be sales promotional.

Dimensions of barcodes on CU

Height demands refer to the shortest bar/measurement of the barcode, not including the written numbers. X-dimension refers to the thickness of each single element in the barcode.

EAN-13/UPC-A bar code symbol

- Minimum dimension: 29,83 mm x 18,28 mm
- Maximum dimension: 74,58 mm x 45,70 mm
- Nominal dimension: 37,29 mm x 22,85 mm
- X-dimension at nominal dimension: 0,330 mm

EAN-8 bar code symbol

- Minimum dimension: 21,38 mm x 14,58 mm
- Maximum dimension: 53,46 mm x 36,46 mm
- Nominal dimension: 26,73 mm x 18,23 mm
- X-dimension at nominal dimension: 0,330 mm

UPC-E bar code symbol

- Minimum dimension: 17,69 mm x 18,28 mm
- Maximum dimension: 44,22 mm x 45,70 mm
- Nominal dimension: 22,11 mm x 22,85 mm
- X-dimension at nominal dimension: 0,330 mm

Requirements and practical guidelines for labelling of case (TU)

- AS Vinmonopolet requires 100% labelling of TU.
- AS Vinmonopolet accepts EAN-13, UPC-A, ITF-14 and GS1-128.
- If the quantity of items within the TU changes, so must the GTIN.
- Every variety of TU must have a unique GTIN.
- The GTIN of the TU cannot be the same as for the CU.

Quality, dimension and design of labels on TU

As dimension and shape of TU varies, so too does the labels. We recommend ensuring that design and dimension of the label meets our requirements for legibility.

Quality, dimension and design of barcodes on TU

AS Vinmonopolet require that the quality of the printed barcode meets ISO/IEC standard 15416, grade B or better. The design of the barcode must meet our requirements for legibility. Our requirements follow GS1 International's recommendations regarding dimensions of the barcodes.

GS1- 128 bar code symbol:

- Recommended dimension factor: 50 - 94 %
- Minimum X-dimension: 0,495mm
- Maximum X-dimension: 1,016mm
- Minimum height of barcode: 13 mm
- Minimum height of text: 5 mm

ITF-14 bar code symbol:

- Recommended dimension factor: 100 - 200%
- Minimum dimension: 49,50 mm x 31,75 mm, not including numbers
- Maximum width: 122,43 mm, no upper height limit
- Nominal dimension: 49,50 mm x 31,75 mm
- X-dimension at nominal dimension: 0,495 mm

EAN -13 and UPC-A bar code symbols

- Recommended dimension factor: 100 - 200%
- Minimum dimension: 37,29 mm x 22,85 mm
- Maximum dimension: 74,58 mm x 45,70 mm
- Nominal dimension: 37,29 mm x 22,85 mm
- X-dimension at nominal dimension: 0,330 mm

Number and placement of barcode labels on TU

- AS Vinmonopolet recommends barcode labels on both short and long side of TU, though this is not a requirement.
- The barcode label should be placed no closer than 50mm from the outer edge of the case.

More information on GS1

GS1 is represented in many countries. On their website www.gs1.org you can find information about the various countries where GS1 operates, with a link to the corresponding website. For information about equipment for production and printing of barcode labels, contact retailer of equipment.

Faulty barcodes – Terms of Compensation

When goods are delivered without a legible barcode, it is deemed faulty. In these cases, we refer to the document “Generelle innkjøpsbetingelser” (General Purchasing terms and conditions), section 11.1. The Norwegian Sale of Goods Act (Kjøpsloven) §36 – Section three. This section provides the buyer the right to correct faults in the product in situations where it is unreasonable to wait for seller’s redistribution. AS Vinmonopolet deems it unfavourable to wait for a seller’s redistribution when our goal, customer satisfaction, relies on product availability.

Invoicing of faulty and deviant labelling for both CU (bottles) and TU (cases)

Most common deviations occur due to:

- the barcode being registered to the wrong item,
- lacking report of new barcodes,
- missing labelling on the CU or TU,
- the code used is not of the accepted standards,
- poor print quality,
- poor colour combinations,
- high gloss BiB packaging,
- GTIN printed directly on bottle without background colour.

Process initiated when faults are identified:

If/when faulty barcodes are identified, the wholesaler has 3 working days to rectify the fault after receiving notice.

- When Vinmonopolet has received confirmation of correction at vareforsyning@vinmonopolet.no within this timeframe, no invoicing is triggered.
- Recurring faults will be invoiced.
- If a product/case scans as another item due to being labelled with the wrong barcode, we stop all orders of this item until we receive confirmation of re-labelling.
- If the fault is not rectified within 3 working days, Vinmonopolet’s logistics department will log all shipped cases of the item in question the following 5 weeks, and demand compensation for administrative work regarding re-labelling of the goods, per case.
- After 5 weeks, all orders of the item are stopped entirely.

Contact information

AS Vinmonopolet can be reached at markedskonsulenter@vinmonopolet.no

For queries regarding barcodes, and goods handling, please contact our logistics department at vareforsyning@vinmonopolet.no.