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**GS1 Germany**

# Data Quality Excellence (GS1 DQX) – Release Notes

for the functional release on January 5, 2026

*Version 1.0 , Dec 2025*

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# 1 Update of visual validation comments

Visual validation comments provide information about discrepancies identified during visual validation, similar to error messages from the automatic validation. They serve to improve data quality in accordance with the validation specifications based on the GS1 Standard.

The following sections describe the changes that will be implemented in the visual validation comments as of January 5, 2026.

## 1.1 Shortening and customization of comment prefixes

From January 5, 2026, the comment prefixes, i.e., the character string that introduces the visual validation comments, will be used without the previous first character "»" and will be individualized for each individual comment by means of numbering. Previously, the prefixes were uniform for each error type.

In the future, the numbers in the prefix will assign an individual ID to each comment in combination with the letters for the respective error type.

### Example:

| Current   |
|---|
| »A1 F Fehlerhafte Abweichung: abweichende Reihenfolge. ( <i>Translation: »A1 F Incorrect deviation: deviating order.</i> )              |
| »A1 F Fehlerhafte Abweichung: abweichende Spurenangabe/n. ( <i>Translation: »A1 F Incorrect deviation: deviating trace statement.</i> ) |
| From January 5, 2026  |
| A4 F Fehlerhafte Abweichung: abweichende Reihenfolge ( <i>Translation: A4 F Incorrect deviation: deviating order</i> )                  |
| A5 F Fehlerhafte Abweichung: abweichende Spurenangabe/n ( <i>Translation: A5 F Incorrect deviation: deviating trace statement</i> )     |

## 1.2 Optimized wording for missing data from the product image and non-incorrect additional information in the data set

Information missing from the product image in the data set that is identified during the visual validation in the validation direction from the product image to the data set (also known as validation extension) has previously been referred to as "**Fehlerhafte Minderangabe**" (*translation: incorrectly missing data*). From January 5, 2026, the wording will be "**Fehler: Fehlende Angabe/n vom Produktbild**" (*translation: incorrectly missing data from the product image*) in order to describe this error in a more generally understandable way.

### Example:

| Current   |
|---|
| »V1 F Fehlerhafte Minderangabe: Im Datensatz fehlt mind. eine Zutatenliste vom Produktbild. ( <i>Translation: »V1 F Incorrect missing data: At least one ingredient list is missing from the product image in the data set.</i> ) |
| From January 5, 2026  |

V3|F Fehler: Fehlende Angabe/n vom Produktbild: Im Datensatz fehlt mind. eine Zutatenliste vom Produktbild.

*Translation:* V3|F Incorrectly missing data from the product image: At least one ingredients list from the product image is missing in the data set.

Information previously commented on as "**Nicht fehlerhafte Mehrangaben**" (*translation:* non-incorrect additional information) will also be labeled in a more generally understandable way in the future. The wording has been changed to: "**Hinweis auf zusätzliche Angabe/n im Vergleich zum Produktbild**" (*translation:* Indication of additional information compared to the product image).

Additional information in the data set that is commented on with this note cannot be verified during visual validation due to its absence from the product images. However, it does not result in a "Failed" validation. It is possible to remove this information from the data set, but it is not mandatory.

In addition, the letters in the comment prefix for this comment category have changed from "M" to "H".

#### Example:

| Current  |
|--|
| »M2 P Nicht fehlerhafte Mehrangabe.<br><i>Translation:</i> »M2 P Non-incorrect additional information.   |
| From January 5, 2026   |
| H1 P Hinweis auf zusätzliche Angabe/n im Vergleich zum Produktbild<br><i>Translation:</i> H1 P Indication of additional information compared to the product image. |

### 1.3 Comments on non-incorrect special character/punctuation mark deviations are no longer reported

From January 5, 2026, special character/punctuation mark deviations that are not incorrect will no longer be commented on. This will streamline the GS1 DQX Report and simplify the visual validation.

#### Examples of cases that will no longer be commented on as of January 5, 2026:

| Data set  | Product image   |
|---|---|
| Bäckerei XYZ GmbH & Co. KG                                  | Bäckerei XYZ GmbH & Co.KG                                   |
| Postfach 2000, 54321 Beispielort                            | Postfach 2000_54321 Beispielort                             |
| Bei Kontakt mit den Augen_diese sofort gründlich ausspülen. | Bei Kontakt mit den Augen,diese sofort gründlich ausspülen. |

Comments on **incorrect** special character/punctuation mark deviations, such as hyphen-space-deviations, remain unchanged. Only the comment prefix changes, as the letter "A" is replaced by a "Z."

#### Example:

| Current |
|---------|
|---------|

»A2|F Fehlerhafte Sonderzeichen-/Satzzeichenabweichung.

*Translation:* »A2|F Incorrect special character/punctuation mark deviation.

**From January 5, 2026**

Z1|F Fehlerhafte Sonderzeichen-/Satzzeichenabweichung

*Translation:* Z1|F Incorrect special character/punctuation mark deviation

Chapter 2.5.2 of the GS1 DQX Kompendium contains documentation on the evaluation of special character deviations, including special character deviations defined as incorrect and tolerances. In addition, Chapter 2.5.1, which describes general tolerances in the visual validation, mentions special character tolerances in isolated cases. The latest version of the GS1 DQX Kompendium is available for download at <https://www.gs1-germany.de/produkte-services/stammdaten/produktmanagement/download-center/>.

## 2 Introduction of the check for the indication of at least one communication channel from the product image for pet food & detergents

For the **product areas detergents and pet food**, the packaging reference in the FMCG target market profile specifies since the August release 25.08 on August 23, 2025 that at least one communication channel must be provided via the GDSN master data exchange in the attributes "Communication channel code [M377]" and "Communication channel: link [M376]".

It has been agreed with the GS1 DQX PCO Expertengruppe that, as part of the visual validation **from January 5, 2026**, it will be identified whether at least one communication channel identical to the product image is maintained for detergents and pet food. If an entry is found in the data set but does not correspond to the product image, the absence of a communication channel from the product image will be evaluated as an error. However, the information already maintained remains permissible.

### Example of missing data for detergents or pet food

**Example:** The attributes "Communication channel code [M377]" and "Communication channel: link [M376]" contain a telephone number that is not listed on the product image.

| Data set                 | Product image                  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| TELEPHONE<br>01234-56789 | 09876-54321<br>www.beispiel.de |

Result of the extended visual validation: At least one of the entries "TELEPHONE" + "09876-54321" or "WEBSITE" + "www.beispiel.de" is expected in the data set from the product image.

- Evaluation: Error (GS1 DQX Certificate: Failed)

## Contact

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