AkzoNobel
Tomorrow's Answers Today

GHS
Stock Update Tool

(GHS Tool)

Modified: Monday, 05 June 2017
by Maciej Gierych

1. General information

Functionality

GHS Stock Update Tool (GHS Tool) is small software applied for Color Manager that changes old SAP items to new SAP items preserving customer data like prices and stock levels related to particular item.

For UserData only

GHS Tool works only with UserData. In case the customer is still on old DataStore he needs to be converted to UserData first and then GHS Tool can be used for this customer.

Use with the latest color database

When willing to run GHS Tool, please use with it the latest possible color database appropriate for your country. This increases the chance that all necessary new SAP items will be available for switch in the database.

Distribution

GHS Tool is not a part of Color Manager and it is distributed separately via Customer Service Portal (http://my.anaac.net/) or via local AN representatives.

2. Working principles

Data – general information

GHS Tool can only switch from old SAP items that *are in the database* to new SAP items that *are in the database*. This means that both old SAP item and new SAP item need to be visible under [Stock items] screen to let them be switched. The switch is based on the following principles:

- Items present
  - Old item is not present => no switch
  - New item is not present => no switch
- Items selected
  - Old item is selected and new item is deselected => switch
  - New item is selected => no switch
- Items deselected
  - Old item is deselected => no switch
  - New item is deselected and old item is selected => switch

The switch algorithm ruling which old item should be switched to which new item is based on the data handled by our central system that assigns particular items sold to particular countries.

Data – handling multiple items

GHS Tool is capable to switch all unique items quite easily (presuming that correct data is in GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files). However we have also multiple items, so items that have different can sizes and also items that are highly regionalized (there are a few different items for the same product due to regionalization). This is handled by GHS Tool based on the following rules:

- In case there are multiple old items selected for the same product, GHS Tool will switch the one that has Own Price > 0 (greater than zero).

- In case there are multiple old items selected for the same product and more than one has Own Price > 0 (greater than zero) then GHS Tool is not able to decide which item to switch. In this case GHS Tool will not switch any item, leaving decision (and action) what to do with it to the user.

It is suggested to review items used by particular customer and – in case of multiple items – deselect those that are not needed. This will increase probability that GHS Tool will not have problem identifying items to be switched.

Distributable

GHS Tool distributable is extracted to C:\Temp folder. There are only 3 files required for this tool:
GHS_Stock_Update_Tool.exe => the GHS Tool itself.
GHSStockInputComma.csv => the data that is used by GHS Tool to change SAP numbers in Color Manager. This file contains comma delimiter.
GHSStockInputSemi => the data that is used by GHS Tool to change SAP numbers in Color Manager. This file contains semicolon delimiter.
After files extraction the GHS Tool is started automatically. You may run distributable as many times as you want: it will always overwrite C:\Temp files with its original ones.

GHS Tool

- GHS Tool requires all instances of Color Manager to be closed before it can be run.
- When GHS Tool is started it asks for language interface selection. Select your native language if possible, this influences only the interface.
- Then GHS Tool asks for country selection. Select the country that your customer is located in. Country selection defines SAP numbers to be switched to, so each country may have different SAP numbers to be used.
- Then GHS Tool makes UserData backup and stores it in C:\Backup. The backup gets the time stamp and it is created each time GHS Tool is run. This means that you have always the possibility to restore your previous data set defined in UserData.
- Then GHS Tool calculates the number of entries that will be altered in UserData.
- Then GHS Tool alters the entries.
- Done!

3. Using GHS Tool depending on Customer type

3 Customer types

The usage of GHS Tool is closely related to customer type that you approach. Form GHS Tool perspective there are 3 different Customer types.

NOTE: in instruction below we are using the term “check items” by which we understand “check items used by this particular customer”, not “check all items”.

Type 1: the Customers not using Inventory & not using the prices

There is no need to run GHS Tool at these customers, this would be only unnecessary task for your field forces and unnecessary trouble for the customer. These customers can easily continue working on old SAP numbers. Even when one day these old SAP number items are removed from the database, these customers will see these components marked with red color (as “Not Purchased”). They will need to go to [Items list] screen and select new

SAP items (that will be in this database even when old SAP numbers are gone). Most customers will probably do this on their own, some maybe will call for support.

Type 2: the Customers not using Inventory, but using the prices

We suggest running GHS Tool at these customers to avoid that they will need to retype all their prices. After running GHS Tool you should check if all items under [Stock > Items list] have been switched. If yes, then the case is closed. If not then read paragraph "4. Adjusting data to switch to what you need" below.

Type 3: the Customers using Inventory and also using the prices

We suggest running GHS Tool at these customers to avoid that they lose Inventory levels and price information. After running GHS Tool you should check if all items under [Stock > Inventory] have been switched.

a. If yes, then check if all items under [Stock > Items list] have been also switched.
   i. If yes then the case is closed.
   ii. If not then read paragraph "4. Adjusting data to switch to what you need" below and repeat actions.
b. If not then read paragraph "4. Adjusting data to switch to what you need" below and repeat actions.

4. Adjusting data to switch to what you need

Why some items are not switched?

Sometimes some items are not switched. This might be caused by:

- The case when old item is a multiple item and more than one of these has Own Price > 0 (greater than zero). This issue is described above (point 2, paragraph "Data – handling multiple items").
- The case when old item information is missing from GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files. The reason of this information missing may vary from mistakes done on global level, via incorrect items being on local price list till the end user selecting incorrect old item. All of these influences switch algorithm that might not detect particular item to be switched. Fortunately this case might be corrected manually.

Correcting GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files manually

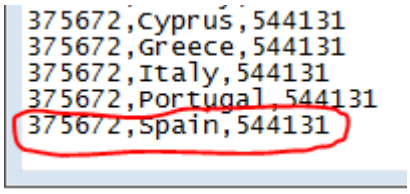
You may correct GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files manually if it is needed. To do that:

- Go to C:\Temp folder
- Right-click GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files and from pop-up menu select "Open with > Notepad"
- At the bottom type in the selection that is missing
  - Note delimiter difference: use comma (",") or semicolon (";") depending on the file you are editing
- Close and save GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files
- Run GHS Tool again. It should now switch all items that you typed in manually (presuming that their corresponding old and new SAP items are available in the database)

  Note that after adjusting manually GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files you need to run GHS Tool from C:\Temp folder itself. Running original GHS Tool distributable (that you downloaded from Customer

Service Portal) will overwrite GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files to original one, so your changes will be lost.

Example for GHSStockInputComma.csv file:
You noticed under your Inventory that item 375672 has not been switched to item 544131 (although it should). And you are in Spain. In this case add the following line at the bottom of GHSStockInputComma.csv file:



Note that Country name must be in English and the separators must be commas. The same change you need to apply in GHSStockInputSemi.csv file and use semicolon as delimiter this time.

You can type in as many items as you want and you can repeat this procedure as many times as you want.

5. The process

Suggested process

Here is actions order that we suggest:

- Identify Customer Type
  - Customer Type 1 => no action
  - Customer Type 2 or 3, please read below
- Run GHS Tool
- Verify if all items used by particular customer have been switched
  - During this action notice multiple items and deselect those that are not needed
  - Correct GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files manually
- Run GHS Tool again
- Verify if changes you expected have been done
  - Have multiple items been switched?
  - Have corrected items been switched?
- Depending on the outcome
  - Or it is done
  - Or repeat again

NOTE: In case new item that you want to switch to is not present in color database then there is no point “fighting” with GHSStockInputComma.csv / GHSStockInputSemi.csv files.