

Contents

CONTENTS	1
INTRODUCTION	2
1. SCOPE	3
2. NORMATIVE REFERENCES	3
3. DEFINITION OF EHIMA BAR-CODE LABELS FOR HEARING AIDS	4
3.1 Physical dimensions	4
3.2 Label data	4
3.2.1 Mandatory text information	4
3.2.2 Mandatory bar-code data	4
3.2.3 Additional text information	5
3.2.4 Additional bar-code data	5
3.3 Label lay-out	5
4. DEFINITION OF EHIMA BAR-CODE LABEL FOR ACCESSORIES	7
4.1 Physical dimensions	7
4.2 Label data	7
4.2.1 Mandatory text information	7
4.2.2 Mandatory bar-code data	7
4.2.3 Additional text information	8
4.2.4 Additional bar-code data	8
4.3 Label lay-out	8

Introduction

This standard has been prepared to facilitate the use of bar-codes by hearing aid dispensers. Particularly the entry of serial numbers in database systems when taking hearing aids on stock will be much easier once a common standard for all manufacturers has been established.

The EHIMA standard defines certain mandatory elements on a bar-code label which otherwise can be tailored for the individual needs of each company.

Each manufacturer is responsible for contacting their national EAN representative to achieve the necessary registration with the EAN organisation. Each manufacturer will generally be allocated 99.999 (5 digits) EAN article numbers. This is usually not enough to represent the article number used by the manufacturer in his own MPS system. A new number will therefore have to be assigned for each product to be labelled with the EHIMA bar-code label. Users of this standard are kindly referred to their national EAN office for further details. The international EAN office is in Brussels at the following address:

EAN International
rue Royale 145
B-1000 Brussels
Belgium

Tel: + 32 2 227 10 20
Fax: + 32 2 227 10 21

1. Scope

This EHIMA standard specifies certain elements of a bar-code label to allow hearing aid to allow the use of bar-code scanners when handling hearing aids and related products. Easy entry of product identification and serial number of hearing aids is the main purpose for this standard, but any product intended to be sold directly to end-users is covered by this standard.

The standard does not define a precise label format, but only certain elements and their relative size and place. Additional information - text as well as bar-codes - can be added by each manufacturer provided the standardised part is maintained. It is recommended to use the UCC/EAN 128 standard for such additional information.

The standard will be applicable in all countries where the internationally accepted EAN bar-code system is commonly used. The UCC/EAN 128 is a true international standard. As regards EAN 13, the UPC is still commonly used in the USA and Canada instead of EAN 13, but most readers and software systems can handle both types.

2. Normative references

EAN International: An introduction

EAN International, rue Royale 145
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

EAN Identification for retail / trade items

EAN International, rue Royale 145
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

EAN Application Identifiers and the UCC/EAN 128 Symbology

EAN International, rue Royale 145
B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

3. Definition of EHIMA bar-code labels for hearing aids

3.1 Physical dimensions

The exact dimension of the label can be determined by each manufacturer provided the EHIMA data is accommodated.

3.2 Label data

The contents of the label can be divided in a mandatory and an optional part. Data will be represented as text as well as bar-code

3.2.1 Mandatory text information

The label for a hearing aid shall contain the following text:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Min. font size</i>	<i>Header</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.	Name of manufacturer	Text	12 Bold	-	
2.	Product name	Text	10 Bold	-	
3.	Part number	Text	10 Bold	-	This is <u>not</u> the EAN code
4.	Serial number	Text	10 Bold	Ser. No.	

These four mandatory text items should be placed together at the top part of the label. See fig.1

3.2.2 Mandatory bar-code data

The label shall contain the following bar-codes:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Min. Pitch</i>	<i>Min. Height</i>	<i>Contents</i>
5.	Product ID	EAN 13	.8	5 mm	Country, Company, Item
6.	Serial number	EAN 128	.8	5 mm	Application Identifier (21), Serial number

The actual length of the bar-codes will vary somewhat with the contents, but will usually not exceed 35 mm when the minimum bar-code size is used for an 11 digit serial number without letters. If letters are included the length may increase to a degree determined by the mix of digits and letters.

Please note that the use of the minimum size bar-codes requires the use of high quality printers.

3.2.3 Additional text information

Other text information can be added. If such text is placed close to the mandatory texts they shall be in normal (not bold) typeface (7). If additional text information is placed elsewhere no particular restrictions apply (8). Symbols such as the CE mark as well as company logos can be added as wished.

3.2.4 Additional bar-code data

Other bar-code information can be added preferably using the UCC/EAN 128 coding, where application identifiers are used for characterisation of the data (9).

3.3 Label lay-out

Although the dimensions of the EHIMA label basically are free, a few rules do apply to secure uniformity to such an extent that the label is recognisable. The label is divided in two main fields which again are subdivided in a text field and a bar-code field. An example is shown in figure 1.



Mandatory text field	<p>¹EHIMAVOX CE</p> <p>²Superaid 952 AGCO ³12345-45-789</p> <p>⁴Ser. No: BA987654 ⁷Nov 1997</p>
Mandatory bar-codes	
Additional text	<p>⁸ Manufactured in Europe</p>
Additional bar-code	<p>Shipping information</p> 

Figure 1.
Typical placement of EHIMA hearing aid bar-code label data

The four different fields defined above can be placed in other configurations to suit individual needs. Another example is shown in figure 2.

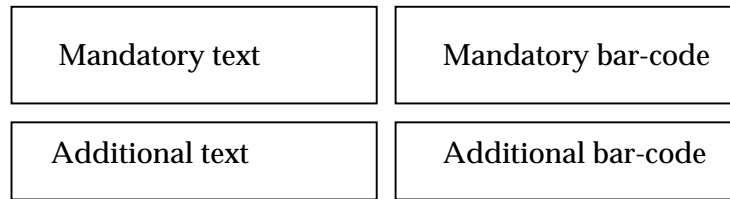


Figure 2
Alternative placement of EHIMA hearing aid bar-code label data

4. Definition of EHIMA bar-code label for accessories

This definition relates to accessories and other items supplied by a hearing aid manufacturer that can be sold by a hearing aid dispenser to an end user i.e. over the counter. These item differs from hearing aids by not having a serial number.

4.1 Physical dimensions

The exact dimension of the label can be determined by each manufacturer provided the EHIMA data is accommodated.

4.2 Label data

The contents of the label can be divided in a mandatory and an optional part. Data will be represented as text as well as bar-code

4.2.1 Mandatory text information

The label for an accessory shall contain the following text:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Min. font size</i>	<i>Header</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.	Name of manufacturer	Text	12 Bold	-	
2.	Product name	Text	10 Bold	-	
3.	Part number	Text	10 Bold	-	This is <u>not</u> the EAN code

These four mandatory text items should be placed together at the top part of the label. See fig. 3.

4.2.2 Mandatory bar-code data

The label shall contain the following bar-codes:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Information</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Min. Pitch</i>	<i>Min. Height</i>	<i>Contents</i>
5.	Product ID	EAN 13	.8	5 mm	Country, Company, Item

The actual length of the bar-codes will vary somewhat with the contents, but will usually not exceed 35 mm when the minimum bar-code size is used for an 11 digit serial number.

4.2.3 Additional text information

Other text information can be added. If such text is placed close to the mandatory texts they shall be in normal (not bold) typeface (7). If additional text information is placed elsewhere no particular restrictions apply (8). Symbols such as the CE mark as well as company logos can be added as wished.

4.2.4 Additional bar-code data

Other bar-code information can be added preferably using the UCC/EAN 128 coding, where application identifiers are used for characterisation of the data (9).

4.3 Label lay-out

Although the dimensions of the EHIMA label basically are free, a few rules do apply to secure uniformity to such an extent that the label is recognisable. The label is divided in two main fields which again are subdivided in a text field and a bar-code field. An example is shown in figure 3.

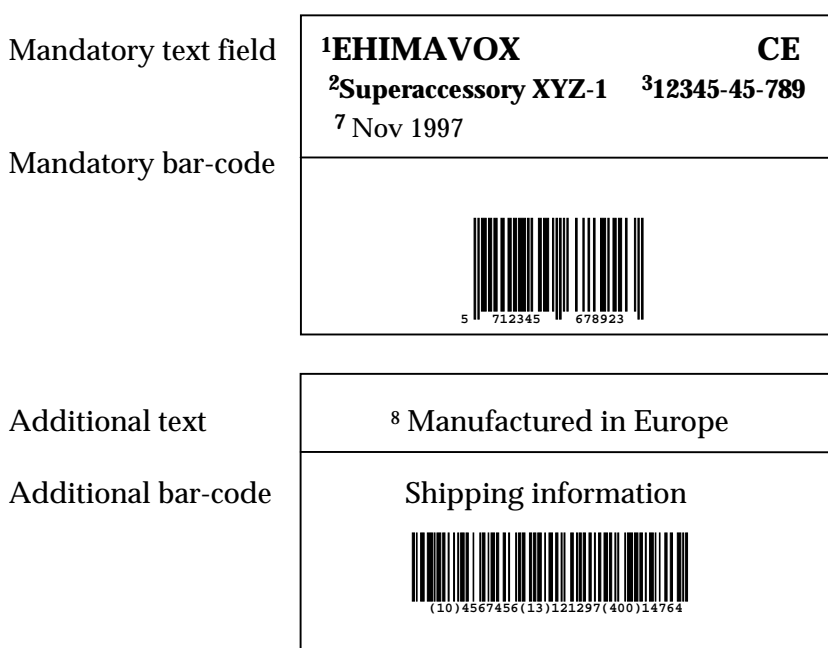


Figure 3
Typical placement of EHIMA accessory bar-code label data

The four different fields defined above can be placed in other configurations to suit individual needs. Another example is shown in figure 4.

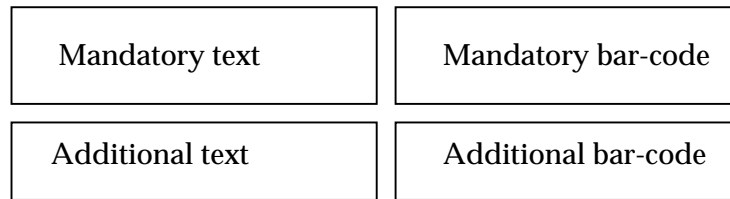


Figure 4
Alternative placement of EHIMA accessory bar-code label data