



Health Industry Business
Communications Council

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What is Unit of Measure?

All HIBC UDIs & Auto-ID symbols contain a Unit of Measure field in the Device Identifier (primary data structure). The Unit of Measure is a number (0-9) assigned by the labeler to indicate package level. The Unit of Measure is always located directly after the Product Code. In the image below, the Unit of Measure is the "0" above the red arrow.

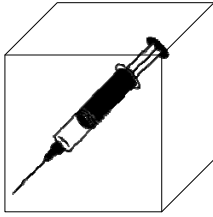


How Do I Assign a Unit of Measure?

A single unit (i.e. an "each") is always represented by a Unit of Measure of "0". The Unit of Measure "9" is reserved for packages containing variable quantities (i.e. the package quantities are customized). Units of Measure 1-8 are used by the labeler to identify all remaining package levels in ranking order from smallest to largest. The example below shows how to assign the Unit of Measure to different package levels for a device.

Example:

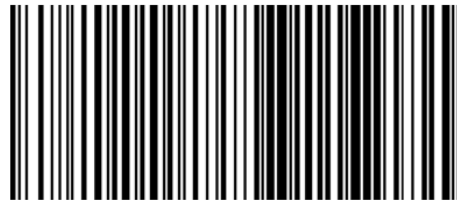
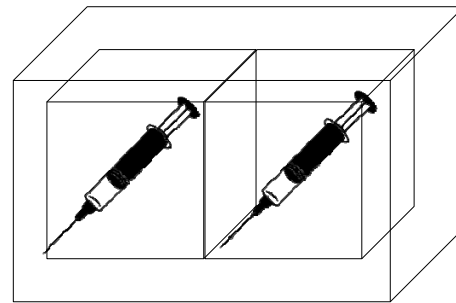
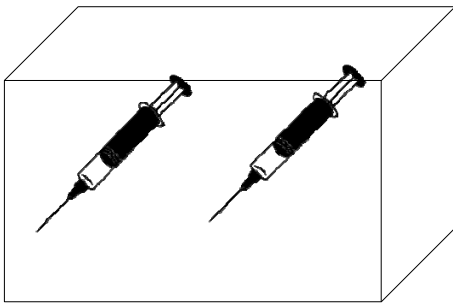
The syringe below is packaged as a single unit, so the Unit of Measure would be "0".



+A999ABC1230V



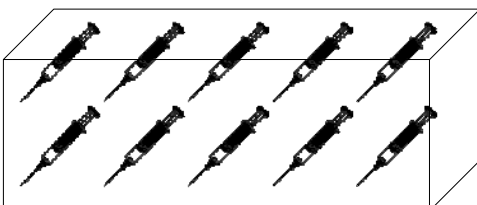
The syringe is also available in sets of two. The images below show two different packaging scenarios for the set of two devices. The Unit of Measure is the same whether the box contains two unpackaged syringes or two individually packaged syringes. The Unit of Measure would be "1" for both scenarios.



+A999ABC1231W



Finally, the syringe is available in a case of 10. The Unit of Measure for the case of 10 syringes would be "2". It is also fine to skip numbers and assign a higher Unit of Measure if there is a chance that the device will be available in smaller quantities later on.



+A999ABC1232X



Note that the HIBC standard allows labelers to use the same Product/Catalog Number for all package levels of a device (as shown in the example above). The Device Identifier is still unique for each packaging level because the each level is assigned a different Unit of Measure, as required for the FDA's UDI rule.

Note: The term "Package Level Indicator" can be used interchangeably with "Unit of Measure".

For additional questions contact HIBCC by email at info@hibcc.org

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