



## Guide to the GDST Materials

### Packet Contents | How to Use These Documents

The GDST materials consist of four separate documents (plus this Guide) and an Excel spreadsheet, all being released together as a set, as follows:

Document Title	Document Date	Version	Contents
<i>Guide to the GDST Materials (this doc.)</i>	June 2023	v1.2	Overview of GDST packet contents + “How to use these documents”
<i>Executive Summary</i>	June 2023	v1.2	Two-page description of GDST
<i>Core Normative Standards</i>	June 2023	v1.2	Core Normative Standards
<i>Basic Universal List of KDEs (spreadsheet)</i>	June 2023	v1.2	e-spreadsheet of Appendices to <i>Core Normative Standards</i> — part of GDST core standards
<i>Explanatory Materials</i>	June 2023	v1.2	Non-technical background and introductory materials
<i>Technical Implementation Guidance</i>	June 2023	v1.2	Additional technical materials to facilitate implementation

Apart from the KDE spreadsheet, the materials are being distributed in PDF format. While suitable for printing, they have been prepared for on-screen viewing, with internal hyperlinks to assist document navigation. All are available at [traceability-dialogue.org/gdst-standards-and-materials/](https://traceability-dialogue.org/gdst-standards-and-materials/)

The materials are presented in separate documents for two reasons: (i) to distinguish clearly between the GDST *Core Normative Standards* document (drafted through the GDST dialogue process) and the explanatory/supportive materials (drafted by the GDST Secretariat, in consultation with GDST members and external experts); and (ii) because the documents address **both technical and non-technical audiences**, as follows.

- The **Core Normative Standards** begin with a narrative section suitable and **important for all readers**; most of this document, however, is highly technical.
- The **Executive Summary** and **Explanatory Materials** offer a **non-technical** presentation of the GDST Standards, their context, and some of the underlying questions confronted. The *Explanatory Materials* document is long—good use of its table of contents for selective reading is advised!
- The **Technical Implementation Guidance** is for **technically expert readers** familiar with EPCIS. Like the *Explanatory Materials*, it contains references and links both to additional educational materials and to the GDST GitHub for continuous, community-based learning and tool development for implementation of the GDST standards.