



October 29, 2003

Dear North American Home Depot Suppliers:

This past spring, The Home Depot joined the Hardlines Industry on an initiative for Global Data Synchronization using UCCnet's global registry. We are happy to report that there are over 1,700 suppliers and retailers aligned with UCCnet as of today. This has been a great response, but we still have a distance to go.

The Home Depot has asked that your Business and IT teams conduct the needed research and sign up with UCCnet by December 31, 2003. This gives you just another few short months. The timeline is critical as you will most likely have much work to do in the education of your organization, locating all your data attributes and images and formatting them within your company to meet the AHMA/VICS (American Hardlines Manufacturers Association/Voluntary Interindustry Commerce Standards) proposed standards. There are many support tools and companies available to help locate, normalize, catalog and publish your data to these standards. The UCCnet website is a great place to gain an understanding and begin the realization of our mutual data synchronization goals.

Additionally, for suppliers who **sell** products in Canada. Please follow these additional guidelines as they will answer some of your questions.

1. Canadian based Suppliers with Canadian based Prefixes:

- You must register your UPC/GTIN's with your country data pool, Electronic Commerce Council of Canada (ECCC). ECCC will provide you the Data Synchronization services and register your GTIN's with UCCnet's Global Registry.

2. US based Suppliers with US and Canadian based Prefixes:

- You must register your UPC/GTIN's with either UCCnet or ECCC and use any of the UCCnet Certified Alliance Partners for synchronization with UCCnet's Global Registry. If you use ECCC they will provide you the Data Synchronization services and register your GTIN's with UCCnet's Global Registry.

3. US based Supplier with US based Prefixes:

- You must use UCCnet to register your UPC/GTIN's. You may use any of the UCCnet Certified Alliance Partners for synchronization with UCCnet's Global Registry.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Nate Perryman at (770)433-8211, Ext 85445 or email us at partner_communications@homedepot.com. You may also use any of these websites to review available details:

- www.uccnet.org www.uc-council.org
- www.eccc.org www.vics.org vendor.homedepot.com

The Home Depot will be ready to receive data through UCCnet during April, 2004. We thank you in advance for your company's efforts in moving forward with Global Data Synchronization and UCCnet.

Sincerely,
Mark Healy
Senior Director
Merchandise Operations

