

15.03. Barcode scanning and receiving goods

Added: Version 4.01

When you receive goods into mSupply, that is when you tell mSupply about the barcode that belongs to each line of stock. At the moment it is not possible to receive stock using a barcode scanner (the functionality is coming soon though - watch this space) but this is still the point in your process where you tell mSupply about the barcode that belongs to each line of stock.

This is a vitally important step: once the barcode associated with the stock you receive is recorded, mSupply can recognise it anywhere when you scan it later.

The linking of barcodes with received stock is carried out on a supplier invoice.

Create a supplier invoice in the normal way (either manually (see [Receiving goods - a supplier invoice](#) or by finalising a goods received note (see [Goods receipt notes](#))). If the *We use barcode scanners* preference is turned on (see [Barcode scanning preferences](#)), this is what a blank supplier invoice invoice window looks like:

It is exactly the same as a standard supplier invoice, except for an additional *Print barcode labels* button (see [Barcode label printing](#) for details)

Clicking on the *Add line* button shows an extra *Barcode* field on the invoice line window:

The screenshot shows the 'Add/edit supplier invoice line...' dialog box. It contains several input fields: 'Item' (empty), 'Quantity' (0), 'Pack size' (1), 'Total quantity' (0), 'Batch' (empty), 'Barcode' (empty, highlighted with a red rectangle), 'Location' (empty), 'Expiry' (00/00/00), 'Volume per pack' (m3), 'Invoice line unit cost (USD)' (0.00), 'Adjusted local cost' (0.00), '% Margin' (0.00), and 'Sell price' (0.00). There are also buttons for 'New item', 'Pack to one', 'Cancel', 'OK', and 'OK & Next'.

When the item has been selected in the usual way, the *Barcode* drop down list is filled with a list of all the barcodes already assigned to the item, showing the pack size and manufacturer for each:

The screenshot shows the 'Add/edit supplier invoice line...' dialog box with the 'Barcode' drop-down list open. The list contains the following options: 'Please select...', 'Add one...', 'Pack 1, Manuf. Test manufacturer 01', and 'Pack 10'. The 'Item' field is filled with 'test item 01'. The 'Quantity' field is 0, 'Pack size' is 1, 'Total quantity' is 0, 'Batch' is empty, 'Expiry' is 00/00/00, 'Location' is None, 'Volume per pack' is 0 m3, 'Invoice line unit cost (USD)' is 0.00, 'Adjusted local cost' is 0.00, '% Margin' is 0.00, and 'Sell price' is 0.00. The 'Barcode' field is empty. The 'OK & Next' button is highlighted.

If one of the barcodes matches the stock that is being received, select it: this will set the *Pack size* field to match the pack size that belongs to the barcode. You can still manually edit the *Pack size* field but if it doesn't match the barcode you have selected when you click on the *OK* or *OK & Next* buttons, you will be warned and told to correct it (either select another barcode with a matching pack size or alter the pack size).

If none of the barcodes in the drop down list match the one on the stock, you can click on the *Add one...* option. This will immediately open the Add barcode window so you can add the new barcode. See [Adding barcodes to items](#) for details.

Note that once you have selected a barcode, the *Please select...* option in the **Barcode** drop down list becomes *Remove barcode* to show that selecting this option will remove the barcode from this line.

When you are using barcode scanning, you must select a barcode from the *Barcode* drop down list,

you will not be allowed to add the line without it.

Manually assigning barcodes to stock lines

Sometimes it might be necessary to manually add or edit the barcode that belongs to a stock line. For example, any stock you have in mSupply before you turn on the barcode functionality will not have barcodes entered against it they will need to be added manually. Or an incorrect scan may have been made at goods receipt and the barcode might need to be changed.

To do this, first choose Items > Show items from the menus, search for the item whose stock you wish to edit and open its details window by double-clicking on it. Then click on the *Stock* tab:

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Item details

Item name

Test item 01

Store

General

Item code

Tstitem01

Show zero lines

Print

Split

Update sell prices

Show related invoices

Consolidate

Labels

Print barcode labels

Line	Available packs	Total packs	Hold	Pack size	Batch	Expdte	Supplier	Manufacturer	Donor	Location	Cost Price	Sell Price	S
1	200	200		10	12.../01	31/05/2026	C/F				3.00	3.00	

Stock

Minimum stock

0

Total stock value

600.00

Stock on hand

2,000

Average unit cost

0.30

Stock on order

0

Total Volume

0.00

Non stock items

Non stock item

Default customer

Months Cover

Based on

0

months usage

Calculate

Exclude stock with expiry date less than

3

months

Generating an order for

0

months stock

will order a quantity of

For stock on hand

(months cover)

Including stock on order

(months cover)

Delete

OK & Previous

OK & Next

Cancel

OK

Now double-click on the stock line whose barcode you wish to change. This will open the stock line details window:

mSupply documentation wiki - <https://docs.msupply.org.nz/>

Item stock line details...

Item code Tstitem01 Item name Test item 01

General Ledger Status Reference documents Log

Quantity according to stock

Total Quantity 200 Available 200

Cost price 3 Hold ☐ Volume per pack 0 m3

Sell price 3 Location None

Expiry date 31/05/2026 Pack size 10

Batch 1234ABC/01 Quan per inner 0 Initial quantity 0

Supplier Global Fund Inners per Outer 0

Barcode Pack 10 0104000000000117

Donor None Change donor

Note

Custom stock fields

Cancel OK

The **Barcode** drop down list displays the current barcode assigned to the stock line (it will say *Please select...* if it has no barcode assigned). The current barcode will also be shown to the right of the drop down list, as in the screenshot, if one is currently assigned.

Click on the drop down list and you will be shown a list of all the barcodes of the same packsize as this stock line for this item. You can select any one of these or the *Add one...* option to open a new window to add a new barcode (see the [14.02. Adding barcodes to items](#) page for details on that window).

If a barcode is already assigned to the stock line, the first option in the **Barcode** drop down list will be *Remove barcode* - select this if you want to remove the barcode current assigned to this stock line.

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