

OVERVIEW OF AVAILABLE TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGY (FOOD PROCESSOR / RETAILER) THE GSI TRACEABILITY STANDARD (GTS) SYSTEM

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Objectives

From the perspective of information management, implementing a traceability system within a supply chain requires all parties involved to systematically associate the physical flow of materials, intermediate and finished products with the flow of information about them. This requires a holistic view of the supply chain, which is best attained by deploying a common business language – the GSI system. Its global reach and universal acceptance by consumers, businesses and governments makes it uniquely positioned to provide the appropriate response to traceability system requirements.

Discussion

The GSI Global Traceability Standard (GTS) system is a process standard that defines the business processes and the minimum data management requirements for traceability systems. This definition is independent of the technology to be utilised. It enables companies to implement tracking and tracing of products as they move between companies, whatever the language and tools chosen by each stakeholder. It is based on the use of GSI 'standards' for identification of products and locations, including the use of barcodes, RFID and data communication. Food processors and retailers around the globe are using the GTS, benefiting from very cost effective implementation of reliable traceability systems.

The GTS is being applied successfully in several sectors, including fresh produce, healthcare and meat, and in different geographical regions. Reference case materials can be found at: <http://www.gsi.org/productssolutions/traceability/activities/>

The GSI system can be used, within the framework of objectives, scope and desired outcomes defined by countries, as a valuable tool for implementing systems for identification and traceability that are consistent with the OIE/Codex standards.

Key words: Traceability – GSI Standard – Barcode – RFID/EPC.
