

## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT – TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

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The implementation of a traceability system requires the entry or collection of a large amount of data, the nature of which depends on the objectives, scopes and desired outcomes of the system. As described in the OIE standards, these should be defined clearly through consultation between the Veterinary Authority, relevant sectors and other interested parties. In designing the system, preliminary studies on information management are recommended to determine how the data should be collected, validated and processed, how long they should be kept, and what kind of security measures should be implemented. Depending on legal framework, accessibility to data may also vary from one country to another.

The success of a traceability system hinges on the commitment of all links in the food continuum. The benefits of each party should be maximized whereas the workloads and costs should be minimized.

Practical examples of information management within a traceability system introduced in 2002 will be presented for discussion at this conference.

**Key words:** Traceability –Information management –Access to information –Data security –OIE standards.

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