

Traceability system design and verification

New for 2019: updated with BRC Food 8 requirements

We offer a simple, cost-effective and flexible traceability system verification service that is rapid to implement and provides for legislative and customer requirements. It is suitable for all companies who need to establish the farm-to-fork product chain of ingredients and products.

EU Regulations require traceability at all stages of the food chain. Food businesses are required to

- Identify where raw materials have come from
- Identify the businesses to which products have been sold
- Make such information available on demand

In addition, industry best practice and management standards require identification of what has happened to the materials in the food business operation.

While the companies are free to utilise their own traceability solutions it is imperative that the site properly documents its traceability procedure and the expected outputs, so that it can be used and understood by the relevant personnel. This is particularly important at times of stress, when it is likely that the procedure will be relied upon to ensure at-risk product is identified and recalled or withdrawn in a timely manner

Experience has shown that in many cases problems can be linked to non-systematic design of flow of information between parts of the food chain or process steps, or the recording of information that is too complex for a specific unit operation.

Approach

A simple, structured approach is offered for assessing and prioritizing information flow between suppliers and the different steps of the production processes of food businesses and customers. Account is taken of relevant legislation, standards, and finished product specifications (company/customer) and management system standards such as BRC Food 8, IFS 6.1 and ISO/FSSC 22 000.

The concept is based on prioritizing the information that has to be made traceable and retrievable and on eliminating information that increases complexity, costs and potential for traceability system problems.

The Campden BRI service utilizes a specified sequence of consecutive steps using forms designed to facilitate analysis and documentation. Systematic procedures address: objective; scope; team; product/process description; due diligence requirements; unit of traceability; analysis of information flow; and summary of information needs.

Implementation

Steps typically involve:

- Setting objectives
- Specifying requirements
- Analysis of the system
- Specification of the necessary measures and tools
- Implementation of measures
- Verification of efficiency of changed systems in practice
- Review and adjustment