

Bulletin

of the International Dairy Federation

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2007

IDF Guiding Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing



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IDF Guiding Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing

Foreword

This issue of the Bulletin of the IDF contains the IDF Guiding Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing, as a result of the work of the IDF Task Force on Traceability/Product Tracing¹. On behalf of IDF, I should like to thank the members of the Task Force and in particular its chair, Mr. Thomas Kützemeier (DE), and the deputy chair, Mr. Mike Donkin (NZ), for ensuring the timely completion of the work.

Requirements for traceability/product tracing have been introduced in national regulations as an effective means to contribute to product safety and consumer confidence. The FAO/WHO Joint Food Standards Programme (Codex Alimentarius) has recently adopted Codex Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing as a Tool within a Food Inspection and Certification System.

The dairy sector has taken the viewpoint that traceability/product tracing as a tool is not only relevant in the context of food inspection and certification systems, but may also be applied for industry-driven business reasons and is mainly concerned with food safety aspects.

Supplementing the Codex work, IDF has established thirteen guiding principles as a consensus of the worldwide dairy sector on how to apply traceability/product tracing in the dairy production chain. We hope this publication will contribute to enhance common understanding and to facilitate the implementation of new regulatory requirements being introduced all over the world.

Christian Robert
Director General
March 2007

¹ Task Force on Traceability/Product Tracing: T. Kützemeier (DE) Chair, M. Donkin (NZ) Deputy Chair, K. Armitage (AU), B. Albrecht (CH), J. F. Arthaud (FR), A. Babuchowski (PL), C. Blumer (CH), R. Bouchard (CA), R. D. Byrne (US), H. Dornom (AU), J. P. Guyonnet (FR), P. Mathot (NL), A. Moncada Jiménez (MX), M. Noll (CH), I. Pappa (GR), L. Robichaud (CA), I. Rogelj (SI), A. R. Sayler (US), B. Vandewaetere (BE), J. L. Villicaña (MX)

IDF Guiding Principles for Traceability/Product Tracing

1. Traceability/ product tracing is a tool which may be applied, when and as required, not only within a food inspection and certification system, but may also be applied for industry-driven business reasons.

2. Where individual entities within the dairy industry choose to apply traceability/ product tracing tools for reasons other than those applied within a food inspection and certification system (for example, as a means of promoting business efficiency), these decisions are the business prerogative of the individual dairy entities.

Within the specific context of the application of a traceability/ product tracing tool within a food inspection and certification system:

3. While recognizing the dual mandate of the Codex Alimentarius regarding the need to ensure both food safety and fair trade, the predominant view within IDF is that the application of traceability/ product tracing tools within food inspection and certification systems, where applicable to the dairy industry, should mainly be concerned with food safety aspects.

4. It should not be mandatory for an exporting country to replicate the traceability/ product tracing tool of an importing country.

5. Traceability/ product tracing is a tool that when applied in a food safety context does not in itself improve food safety outcomes unless it is combined with appropriate measures and requirements. It can, for example, contribute to the effectiveness or efficiency of associated food safety measures by providing information on suppliers or customers involved in potential food safety issues, so enabling targeted product recall/ withdrawal.

6. An importing country should consider that in some cases it may be demonstrated that a food inspection and certification system without a traceability/ product tracing tool may meet the same objectives and produce the same outcomes (e.g. provide the same level of food safety protection) as a food inspection and certification system with traceability/ product tracing.

7. In every case where a traceability/ product tracing tool is applied, its use should be justified, and the purpose, objectives and specifications of the traceability/ product tracing tool clearly described.

8. The objectives, scope and related procedures of a food inspection and certification system, that includes a traceability/ product tracing tool, should be transparent and made available to the competent authorities of the exporting country upon request.

9. The application of a traceability/ product tracing tool, within a food inspection and certification system, should be based on considerations of:

- a. Industry-specific practicality;
- b. Technical feasibility;
- c. Economic viability; and
- d. The food safety and/or fair trade issues being addressed.

10. The application of a traceability/ product tracing tool should not result in unnecessary trade restriction.

11. The traceability/ product tracing tool may cover specified stages of the food chain (from production to distribution), as appropriate to the objectives of the food inspection and certification system, and should be relevant, feasible and appropriate to the industry under consideration.

12. The traceability/ product tracing tool should be able to identify at any specified stage of the food chain (from production to distribution) from where the food came (one step back) and to where the food went (one step forward), as appropriate to the objectives of the food inspection and certification system.

13. In dairy production and processing there may be many suppliers of the inputs aggregated through the food chain (e.g. farm milk). Traceability requirements are satisfied when all of the suppliers of an input to a lot of end product can be identified, whether or not the raw material of all of those suppliers is specifically included in that lot of end product.

[IDF GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR TRACEABILITY/PRODUCT TRACING](#)

ABSTRACT

Thirteen guiding principles as a consensus of the worldwide dairy sector on how to apply traceability / product tracing in the dairy production chain.

Keywords: certification, food safety, inspection, product tracing, safety, traceability, tracing

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Example: 1 Singh, H. & Creamer, L.K. Aggregation & dissociation of milk protein complexes in heated reconstituted skim milks. J. Food Sci. 56:238-246 (1991).

Example: 2 Walstra, P. The role of proteins in the stabilization of emulsions. In: G.O. Phillips, D.J. Wedlock & P.A. Williams (Editors), Gums & Stabilizers in the Food Industry - 4. IRL Press, Oxford (1988).

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| | |
|---|--|
| "..... | Usually double quotes and not single quotes |
| ? !..... | Half-space before and after question marks, and exclamation marks |
| ± | Half-space before and after |
| microorganisms..... | Without a hyphen |
| Infra-red | With a hyphen |
| et al..... | Not underlined nor italic |
| e.g., i.e.,... .. | Spelled out in English - for example, that is |
| litre..... | Not liter unless the author is American |
| ml, mg,... | Space between number and ml, mg,... |
| skim milk | One word if adjective, two words if substantive |
| sulfuric, sulfite, sulfate..... | Not sulphuric, sulphite, sulphate (as agreed by IUPAC) |
| AOAC <u>International</u> | Not AOACI |
| programme | Not program unless a) author is American or b) computer program |
| milk and milk product | rather than "milk and dairy product" - Normally some latitude can be allowed in non scientific texts |
| -ize, -ization | Not -ise, -isation with a few exceptions |
| Decimal comma..... | in Standards (only) in both languages (as agreed by ISO) |
| No space between figure and % - i.e. 6%, etc. | |
| Milkfat..... | One word |
| USA, UK, GB..... | No stops |
| Figure..... | To be written out in full |
| 1000-9000 | No comma |
| 10 000, etc. | No comma, but space |
| hours..... | ø h |
| second | ø s |
| litre..... | ø l |
| the Netherlands | |

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