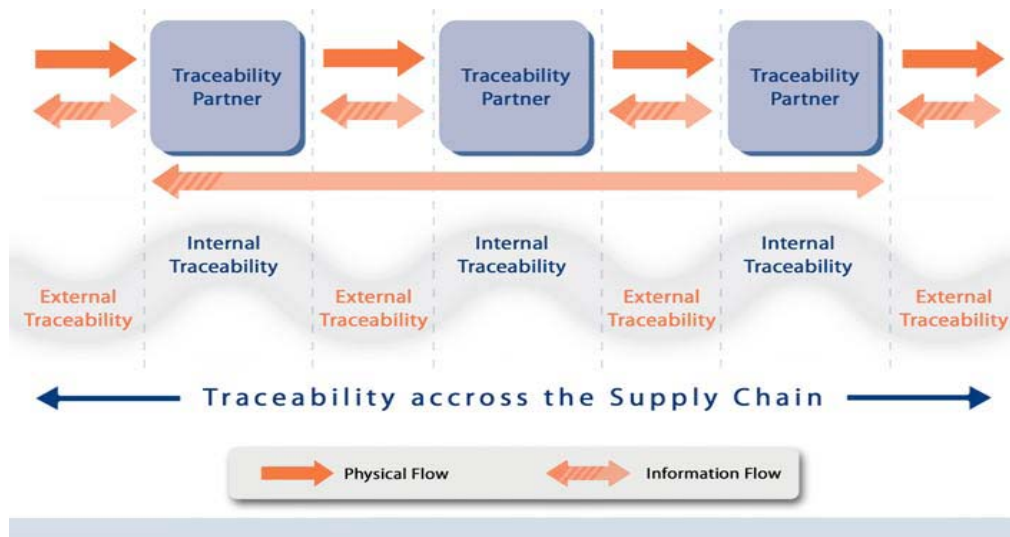


# PRODUCE TRACEABILITY AT A GLANCE

**Traceability** is the ability to trace the history, application or location of that which is under consideration. Traceability has two components: **tracking** and **tracing**.

## Traceability Principles:

- There are three **Basic Elements of Traceability**:
  - Product, Party and Location Identification
  - Recording of Information
  - Linking of Information
- Traceability is based on a **one up/one down model**. Traceability partners must link physical movement of traceable items to the information movement, both between the traceable item source and themselves, and between the traceable item recipient and themselves.



- To achieve traceability across the supply chain, all traceability partners must achieve **internal** and **external** traceability.
- Traceability data may be **master data**, constant across time; or **transactional data**, changing with each case or shipment.
- Current capacity of commonly used produce identification establishes the **common span of traceability** to be from the primary producer end of the supply chain up to delivery to the back door of the retail or foodservice operation. The store shelf or end consumer is beyond the scope. However, where possible (i.e. packaged consumer items), traceability to the consumer item should be the goal.
- If the traceable item changes (e.g. re-pack into new unit of measurement, new brand name, etc.), a new GTIN/item identification must be assigned and a link established to the previous item/lot.
- Much of the information required to establish traceability is typically already captured as part of other business requirements such as food safety or shipping documentation.
- A **traceable item** can be a:
  - **shipment** (container or multiple containers),
  - **logistic unit** (pallet),
  - **trade item which will not cross the POS** (case),
  - **consumer item** (e.g. a trade item which will cross the POS).

## Produce Traceability 10 Best Practices

### At the Store/Foodservice Outlet

1. Add the lot number to fixed-weight consumer packs containing a supplier ID (e.g. bagged lettuce).
2. Suppliers should mark cases with human readable data including supplier name, product description and lot number.

### At the Distribution Center

3. Encode GTIN and lot number in a GS1-128 barcode.
4. Use human-readable supplier name, product description, and lot number.
5. During the selection process (where mixed pallets are built for delivery), scan the supplier case and link to the internal pallet number (or to the store location identifier).
6. During receiving, use supplier pallet tags by encoding the company prefix and serial number in GS1-128 barcode format.
7. Receive the EDI ASN (Advance Ship Notice).
8. Scan supplier pallet data during the receiving process and match to EDI ASN data.

### At the Supplier Facility

9. Use supplier case coding by encoding GTIN and Lot number in GS1-128 barcode, as well as human-readable supplier name, product description, and lot number.
10. Use supplier pallet tags by encoding company prefix and serial number in GS1-128 barcode.

## DATA ELEMENTES

### MANDATORY DATA ELEMENTS – CPMA/PMA Traceability Guide to Implementation (V.2)

• Buyer/Receiver ID
• Lot Number
• Product Description
• Product ID
• Quantity
• Unit of Measure
• Shipment Id
• Vendor/Supplier/Sender ID
• Date of Receipt
• Ship From Location ID
• Ship to Location ID
• Shipment Date

### OPTIONAL DATA ELEMENTS:

• Best Before Date
• Contact Information (e.g. email, phone #)
• Country of Origin, Province or State
• <b>Date of Pack/Harvest*</b>
• Logistics Provider Identifier
• Vehicle Identifier (e.g. vehicle transporting goods)

\* **Date of Pack/Harvest** is not a mandatory data element as this is typically part of the information included in the lot number. If a company chooses not to include it in the lot number, best practice is to include it as a separate data element.