

Message from the Chair: Future Can-Trace Initiatives

The Can-Trace initiative continues to break new ground in the global food traceability effort. In the coming months, several new initiatives will be rolled-out, including:

- Consultation Sessions in six cities across Canada in early June to invite input on a revised Vision and Roadmap for traceability in Canada.
- Publishing a second version of the Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard that will incorporate amendments and updates from stakeholders. Those interested in proposing amendments and enhancements to the Standard will be able to do so online until May 13, 2005.
- The development of Integration Guidelines by a Working Group that will incorporate the Standard into existing food safety, logistics management and quality programs and business practices.
- A new technical working group will develop Data Communications Standards, focusing on communication protocols and standards.
- A White Paper will be developed that explores the issues and implications for applying the Standard in a multi-ingredient product environment.
- Can-Trace will align with interested sectors to explore the development of implementation guidelines and tools specific to each sector.

Watch for more information on these initiatives and how you can participate in upcoming issues of Fast Track.



Jane Proctor, Chair

Can-Trace to Publish Version 2.0 of the Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard

The Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard Version 1.0 has been available online since November 2004 at www.can-trace.org and Can-Trace has just announced a formal "Comment Period" to solicit comments and proposed amendments to the Standard from all interested stakeholders, including associations, supply chain experts and service providers. All submissions for change will be reviewed and approved by the Standards Working Group.

Comments may be submitted online by visiting www.can-trace.org. The deadline for comments is May 13, 2005.

This change management process encompasses several key principles:

- An open and transparent process;
- Accessibility to all those who wish to contribute; and
- A recognized set of procedures for receiving, tracking, reviewing and assessing proposed changes to the Standard.

For more information on providing comments toward Version 2.0, please contact info@can-trace.org.

Calendar of Events

Can-Trace is holding Consultation Sessions across the country in June to gather input on the revised Vision and Roadmap for traceability in Canada. Visit www.can-trace.org for details.

June 2, 2005 - Montréal, Québec

June 6, 2005 - Toronto, Ontario

June 8, 2005 - Halifax, Nova Scotia

June 14, 2005 - Winnipeg, Manitoba

June 15, 2005 - Calgary, Alberta

June 16, 2005 - Vancouver, British Columbia



Fast Track

New Technology Working Group

Upon completion of the Can-Trace Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard Version 1.0, the Steering Committee directed the formation of a Technology Working Group (TWG) to provide guidance to those looking to implement the Can-Trace data elements. The TWG will:

- identify the various messaging and automatic information and data capture (AIDC) methods used throughout the supply chain; and
- examine best practices for documents and physical markings on cases and pallets.

A final report is expected in May 2005. For more information or to participate, contact Norman Cheesman, Director of Can-Trace at normc@eccc.org.

Traceability in the Herb and Spice Industry

According to the Saskatchewan Herb and Spice Association (SHSA), improved traceability is essential in the herb and spice industry to enable a swift recall process in the event of product misidentification or product adulteration, and to help support solid business reputations.

"For natural health products, we need to ensure that we can trace back to the raw material, so we can be sure that what is on the label is in fact in the bottle," said Connie Kehler, Executive Director of SHSA and member of the Can-Trace Steering Committee.

Kehler continues, "Without a clear chain of traceability, producers and manufacturers can not isolate the problems, nor can they eliminate themselves as contributing to the inaccuracy."

As a result of its proactive approach towards responsible safety and traceability throughout the whole chain, the Canadian herb and spice industry is well respected in the international market.

GS1 Global Food Traceability Project Underway

GS1, the global not-for-profit organization that creates, develops and manages open, multisectoral information standards, has formed a Traceability Industry Requirements Team (IRT) to publish an EAN.UCC Global Food Traceability Standard to follow an item or a group of items, and to retrieve information about them throughout product specifications, production, processing and distribution.

The standard will be multi-sectorial, globally applicable and take into account existing traceability definitions as well as current market practices.

The project's first meeting took place in early January 2005 and Can-Trace was represented by its Secretariat, the Electronic Commerce Council of Canada.

Subject experts in business process or standards are invited to join by contacting Rita Laur at rital@eccc.org. More information on this global project can be found at www.can-trace.org.

For more information on Can-Trace, visit www.can-trace.org or contact the Can-Trace Secretariat, the Electronic Commerce Council of Canada (ECCC), at info@can-trace.org.

ECCC will become GS1 Canada in June 2005. ECCC's name change is aligned with over 100 GS1 member organizations worldwide, who work together to improve the efficiency of the global supply and demand chain for more than one million member companies.

