



Fast Track

News from Canada's National Food Traceability Standards Initiative

Message from the Chair:

As the Can-Trace initiative evolves, it is critical for us to measure our achievements to date and assess next steps to ensure we continue to make great strides in traceability. As such, Can-Trace is hosting six national food traceability consultation sessions in June across Canada to provide an update on Can-Trace and the Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard, and invite input on the direction of the Can-Trace initiative.

We encourage all stakeholders at all points along the food supply chain to take part in these sessions. Interested participants can register online at www.can-trace.org.

In addition to the upcoming consultation sessions, the following Can-Trace activities are underway:

- **The Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard Version 2.0:** The comment period for interested stakeholders to submit change requests to the Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard has closed. Work is underway to develop a second version.
- **Technology Working Group:** The Technology Working Group is researching the messaging and automatic information and data capture methods used throughout the supply chain and examining best practices. The final report outlining the findings will be released in June 2005.
- **Integration Guidelines Working Group:** This group is being formed to develop guidelines on integrating the Standard into existing traceability requirements found in various regulatory programs and business processes (see story on page 2 for more details).

We will continue to keep you informed of Can-Trace's ongoing progress.

Jane Proctor, Chair

Can-Trace Standard Receives International Recognition

Two recent announcements demonstrate the progress being made on global traceability and how Can-Trace is taking a prominent position within that arena.

- In early May, the largest e-commerce standards organization in the world, GS1, announced it would be supporting the Can-Trace model for food traceability as a foundation for the Global Traceability Standard, which it is in the process of developing.

The GS1 Global Traceability Standard will cover the ability to follow an item or a group of items and to retrieve information about them throughout product specifications, production, processing and distribution. Multi-sectoral and globally applicable, it will take into account existing traceability definitions as well as current market practices. The GS1 standard will be applied in logistics management, quality and safety management, legal compliance and consumer information.

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Register for Can-Trace Consultation Sessions

The Can-Trace National Food Traceability Consultation Sessions are beginning in early June. These sessions will provide an overview of the Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard version 1.0, provide an update on Can-Trace and solicit input from stakeholders on the future direction of Can-Trace.

- June 2, 2005 - Montréal, Québec
- June 6, 2005 - Toronto/Mississauga, Ontario
- June 8, 2005 - Halifax, Nova Scotia
- June 14, 2005 - Winnipeg, Manitoba
- June 15, 2005 - Calgary, Alberta
- June 16, 2005 - Vancouver/Burnaby, British Columbia

For more information or to register to participate in a session, visit www.can-trace.org.





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Can-Trace Standard Receives International Recognition - cont'd

- In April, the Canadian Produce Marketing Association and the Produce Marketing Association released the "Fresh Produce Traceability, A Guide to Implementation," which was built on the Can-Trace Data Standard. The guide includes pilot results, identified barriers to implementation, and the suggested data standard for traceability within the produce supply chain.

GS1 and the North America produce sector's support of Can-Trace marks a significant milestone for Can-Trace and provides validation of the collaborative effort put forth by industry subject matter experts.

New Integration Guidelines Working Group Formed

Can-Trace is establishing a working group to develop guidelines on integrating the Canadian Food Traceability Data Standard (CFTDS) into existing traceability requirements found in various regulatory programs and business processes.

The proposed scope of this newly formed Integration Guidelines Working Group is to:

- Explore the scope of applications for the CFTDS;
- Develop recommendations on how companies can integrate the CFTDS into existing traceability systems;
- Identify information gaps between the CFTDS and the traceability requirements in other programs;
- Provide input to the ongoing development and maintenance of the CFTDS.

The working group is open to business or government experts in food safety, quality security and supply chain management or organizations that have an interest or specialty in such areas. For more information or to participate in the working group, contact Norman Cheesman, Director, Can-Trace at normc@eccc.org.

Traceability in the Aquaculture Industry

The aquaculture industry remains diligent in its efforts to implement and manage a world class, industry-based traceability system. With over 80% of Canada's production in fish and fish products exported, a system that brings confidence to all customers and consumers of Canadian food products is essential. This is a primary reason for the Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance's (CAIA) involvement with Can-Trace.

The CAIA is taking a proactive approach towards developing and implementing comprehensive and internationally competitive systems for aquaculture product traceability. There are two current CAIA initiatives in which traceability plays a key role: the CAIA National Code System for Responsible Aquaculture and the Salmon of the Americas' Safe Quality Food Farmed Salmon Certification Program (which was developed under the Food Marketing Institute in the United States and CAIA is a key partner).

The CAIA supports management systems that promote cost-efficiencies and are based on the "one system, one audit" model. Further, the CAIA has ensured that the principle of "one-up/one-down traceability" is fully incorporated into its approach, which addresses issues of food safety, product quality, environmental management, animal care and worker health and safety.

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.

The Electronic Commerce Council of Canada (ECCC) becomes GS1 Canada on June 30, 2005, joining forces with other GS1 member organizations internationally. The result — a partnership like no other in the age of electronic commerce, and one that fosters the continuous development and adoption of global standards.

