



Our Commitment to Traceability

Traceability

Since January 2005, all food distributors in Europe must have, by law, a full traceability system in place, which assists in the ability of tracking and tracing food products.

The customer is also being held accountable for product traceability once it takes possession of the product. Customers require improved logistics automation in order to reduce costs, and this translates into additional market-driven demands for Dole and other food providers, including better labeling solutions that will help Dole's customers fulfill their product traceability responsibilities and inventory control through improved automation.

Dole is engaged in a Company-wide initiative for product traceability, with the goal to deliver:

- Enterprise Product Traceability
- Worldwide Facilities Information
- Customer Logistics Requirements

Enterprise Product Traceability

Dole requires product traceability for trade items (boxes) and logistics units (pallets and containers) for all the food product lines across its business units. Enough data must be available to allow identification of the product, batch, country of origin, and producer farm. Business units are required to label, identify and locate pallets with specific **internationally recognizable bar codes**. The use of an internationally accepted identification system significantly improves the accuracy and speed of access to information about the product and its origin.

To accomplish effective traceability across Dole's supply chain, Dole adopted the GS1 standards (previously EAN.UCC standards) to identify locations, trade units, logistics units and attribute information. The goal is to adopt a common approach to tracking and tracing fresh produce and packaged food by means of an internationally accepted numbering and bar code system.

Traceability records are collected by each business unit. The traceability recordkeeping requirements include regulatory mandates as well as best business practice standards. Operational recordkeeping takes place at a business unit level. All business units are required to capture relevant data for all traceability events as they may occur throughout their business operations.

The data that must be kept for each event varies based on the event itself. The event of a product sale requires a sales order record. A purchasing event requires a purchase order record. The purpose of traceability is to track all events that affect food product creation, transformation and movement throughout the supply chain. These events include those that affect the physical product itself (e.g. application of a post-harvest treatment), affect the way a product is shipped (e.g. a box, a box on a pallet, a pallet in a container or on a reefer/conventional vessel), and events that result in movement of the product to or from a facility, including the physical transportation event itself.

Dole has Quality Assurance programs in place and routinely evaluates its traceability capabilities as part of Dole's quality assurance program. Performance is measured against requirements described in the recall manuals. Mock recall exercises are performed using a random spot-check system, covering production units and packing stations throughout the world to test traceability systems.

Worldwide Facilities Information Management

Dole has appointed a worldwide facilities coordinator to manage the collection and maintenance of information about Dole's facilities. The United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that all domestic and foreign facilities that manufacture, process, pack or hold food for human or animal consumption in the U.S. register with the FDA. The FDA will assign and return an FDA registration number for each facility registered. There is a further mandate to keep this information current and accurate.

Customer Logistics Requirements

UCCnet

A number of customers are requiring product registration on UCCnet (Uniform Code Council). This is the first step towards data synchronization with Dole customers. Dole has registered its packaged foods and fresh "value-added" products, such as bagged lettuce.

Serial Shipping Container Code

The Serial Shipping Container Code (SSCC) provides an unambiguous identification for logistics units. A logistics unit is an item of any composition established for transport and/or storage, which needs to be managed throughout the supply chain. It can contain a single type of item, a standard mix of different items, or a non-standard mix of different items. For Dole, a logistics unit is typically a container, pallet, airfreight bin, or other bin. If loose boxes are shipped (without a pallet), each individual box is considered a logistics unit and then can be assigned a unique SSCC.

A logistics unit may also contain other logistics units. For example, a container is a logistics unit that normally contains pallets. Each pallet in the container is a unique logistics unit that is tracked. All parties in the packaging supply chain can use it as a reference number to the relevant information held in computer files and transmitted between trading partners.

Box Labeling

Dole is following the GS1 case/carton labeling recommendations made by each industry group. Dole is an industry leader in this area and is working to utilize industry standard case and box bar coding, where appropriate. Labeling and scanning of boxes with bar codes improves accuracy of inventory tracking.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)

As each industry group continues to mature its requirements for pallet and case coding, electronic product codes are predicted to supplement or, in the long-term, replace some of the bar codes in many business sectors. The current enabling technology is a non-line-of-sight data capture technology that is designed for automatic operation. It is similar to bar coding, but improves accuracy and efficiency. RFID (Radio-Frequency Identification) uses a reader and an RFID tag attached to an item. Radio frequency signals send and receive information from the RFID reader to the tag. RFID continues to grow in demand from Dole customers. An RFID on a case represents a unique tracking number for each and every case. The implication is for discreet item tracking of cases. Dole is participating in "pilot programs" with several large retailers, looking for supply chain benefits in preparation for when the technology becomes more cost-effective.