



Aptean Food & Beverage ERP

Traceability Checklist for Fresh Produce Businesses

The keys to meeting GS1 requirements





Traceability continues to be a hot topic in the food and beverage industry, and that’s certainly apparent in the fresh produce sector. As a competitor in this demanding market, your business needs to make sure everything you grow is accounted for and trackable.

That, of course, means dedicating resources to these efforts—and it also makes having the right traceability tools in place a must. You’ve got to be able to act quickly in the case of an audit and show that you’re following the proper protocols.

Speaking of, the most widely recognized and accepted set of standards, established by international non-profit GS1, are designed to prioritize safety and visibility throughout supply chains. They encompass and ensure compliance with Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), British Retail Consortium (BRC) and International Featured Standards (IFS) rules and apply to all fresh produce shippers and sellers.

It’s important to note that adhering to GS1 standards is the minimum your business should be doing in terms of traceability efforts, as these guidelines facilitate “one step forward, one step back” traceability. This whitepaper will provide you with a convenient checklist of to-do items to assure that you’re doing all that’s necessary, but first a few clarifications are in order:

- **Global Location Number (GLN)** is part of the GS1 standards. This is a simple tool for identifying locations and can accomplish this with nuance to unique locations as required (find out more [here](#)).
- **Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)** is an identifier for trade items developed by GS1 (find out more [here](#)).
- **Serial Shipping Container Codes (SSCC)** are 18-digit numbers used to identify logistics units. They are often encoded in barcodes—generally GS1-128—in order to facilitate automation, and they can also be encoded in RFID tags. They’re used for ecommerce transactions (find out more [here](#)).

Company identification

1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is your company identified uniquely?	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you assigned a GLN to your company?	These can be obtained from any GS1 Member Organization. They must be unique to represent your business globally.
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you shared this number with suppliers and customers?	Share these with all your suppliers and customers - unless you already have a blockchain solution that accomplished this.

Production and Inputs

These items apply to fresh produce businesses that pack (or repack) and ship in addition to growing their own produce. Per GS1 traceability requirements, you're required to track the source of all production inputs by using GTINs, as they are recognized globally as a method of identifying items and function as a common language for many different business functions.

2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you captured your traceability inputs?	This includes everything that goes into your product, down to the packaging.
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are GTINs assigned to each product traded?	Each item your business trades needs a unique GTIN.
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are these recorded in your system prior to trading?	



Shipping and Logistics

3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you assigning batch/lot to products you create?	Packages and cases also need GTINs.
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you been assigning Serial Shipping Container Codes (SSCC) to logistic units?	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you managing the re-use of SSCC numbers?	Once you've used all SSCC numbers from those available, they can be re-issued, but only after a year has passed since they were last used.
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you applying best practices when labeling products and logistic units?	This information should be easy to read for both you and your customers, and should include case information.
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do they include GS1-compliant barcodes?	

Inbound Records, Assets and Logistics

6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you recording inbound product information?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Trade item identification (GTIN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Trade item description	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Batch/Lot	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Trade item quantity and unit of measure	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Ship from location identifier	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Sender identification (GLN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Receipt date	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you storing this information in an easy-to-access cloud system?	Learn more about cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems here .

Inbound Records, Assets and Logistics

7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you recording inbound logistics unit information?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Logistic unit identification (SSCC)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Ship from location identification (i.e., GLN of shipping location)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Receipt date	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Sender identification (GLN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Ship date	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you storing this information in an easy-to-access cloud system?	Learn more about cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems here .
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you recording inbound shipment information?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Unique shipment identification (e.g., the bill of lading number)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Ship from location identification (i.e., GLN of shipping location)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Ship to location identifications (i.e., GLN of receiving location/trading partner)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Ship date	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Sender identification (GLN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Receiver identification (GLN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	› Recipient date	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you storing this information in an easy-to-access cloud system?	Learn more about cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems here .



Outbound Records, Assets and Logistics

9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you sharing your outbound product information?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Trade item identification (GTIN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Trade item description	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Batch/lot	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Trade item quantity and unit of measure	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Ship from location identification (i.e., GLN of shipping location)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Ship to location identification (i.e., GLN of receiving location/trading partner)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Ship date	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Sender identification (GLN)	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	‣ Receiver identification (GLN)	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you storing this information in an easy-to-access cloud system?	Learn more about cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems here .

Outbound Records, Assets and Logistics

10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you sharing your outbound logistical unit information?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Logistical unit identification (SSCC) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ship from location identification (i.e., GLN of shipping location) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ship to location identification (i.e., GLN of receiving location/trading partner) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ship date 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Sender identification (GLN) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Receiver identification (GLN) 	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you storing this information in an easy-to-access cloud system?	Learn more about cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems here .
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you sharing your outbound shipment information?	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Unique shipment identification (e.g., the bill of lading number) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ship from location identification (i.e., GLN of receiving location/trading partner) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ship to location identification (i.e., GLN of shipping location) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Ship date 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Sender identification (GLN) 	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Receiver identification (GLN) 	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Are you storing this information in an easy-to-access cloud system?	Learn more about cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems here .

GS1 in Practice

While adhering to GS1 traceability standards will satisfy the minimum requirements for fresh produce businesses like yours, consider going a step further and actively using this information to create value.

12	<input type="checkbox"/>	Is your company maintaining records that will facilitate timely and accurate traceability and support any product recalls?	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you considered government and market requirements?	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Have you thought about how long your product may exist?	
-	<input type="checkbox"/>	Do you have processes in place that allow you to trace produce quickly and accurately?	



Tackling Traceability with Intelligence

Think this checklist seems lengthy and daunting? Consider the proposition of facing an audit or product recall without these reminders of minimum requirements.

Traceability is an area that warrants a careful, methodical approach, and while it will cost time and money, technology can help ease that burden with real-time electronic data capture, thereby reducing errors and digitizing your important records. You'll be dealing with a lot of information, and tracking it with pen and paper simply isn't practical.

A robust, industry-specific ERP solution like Apteian Food & Beverage ERP can make these processes much more manageable—you'll have complete visibility over your supply chain and can trust that all of the facts and figures are up to date. If you want to really be on top of traceability and prepared in the case of audits and recalls, **contact us** to learn more.



Are You Ready to Learn More?

Interested to see how Apteian Food & Beverage ERP can help you better manage your fresh produce company?

Contact us at info@apteian.com or visit www.apteian.com.



About Apteian

Apteian is one of the world's leading providers of industry-specific software. Our enterprise resource planning and supply chain solutions are uniquely designed to meet the needs of specialized manufacturers and distributors, while our compliance solutions serve specific markets such as finance and life sciences. With both cloud and on-premise deployment options, Apteian's products, services and unmatched expertise help businesses of all sizes, across many industries, to scale and succeed.

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