



New Era of Smarter Food Safety – Tech Enabled Traceability

2020 Leafy Green Pilot Task Force Charter

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) stated that achieving end-to-end traceability throughout the leafy greens supply chain could make it possible to rapidly trace a contaminated food to its source, which can help shorten outbreaks, narrow product warnings, and prevent illnesses in the Leafy Greens STEC Action Plan.

The FDA's Overall Goal

Work with leafy green stakeholders to design and initiate a pilot that will deliver the key traceability concepts needed for scaling better industry practices such as testing interoperability of tracing systems and public-private data sharing. (<https://www.fda.gov/food/foodborne-pathogens/2020-leafy-greens-stec-action-plan>)

Key Objectives

- Provide industry with better visibility into Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) traceability processes
- Examine utility of Produce Traceback Template, which was an outcome of the Romaine Task Force

Charter Overview

This charter brings together several industry organizations (FMI, GS1 US, IFDA, IFT, PMA, United Fresh) to drive the leafy green pilot forward. The initial work will begin end-July of 2020 and conclude by late September of 2020. To achieve the key objectives above, the Leafy Green Pilot Task Force (Task Force) will:

- focus on various romaine-containing products for pilots; consideration for different product/supply chain configurations
- plan, initiate, and work with identified volunteers/industry experts to execute each pilot scenario
- review and synthesize the data in a final report to be shared with the FDA and leafy green stakeholders

Pilot Methodology

- Identify and prioritize pilot scenarios, utilizing items purchased in different states in late June
- Secure volunteer retailers/foodservice operators to initiate pilot traceback; complete produce traceback template (for their organization as well as with identified trading partners); answer questions/provide additional insight throughout traceback process to industry experts;
- Completed traceback documents received will be provided to industry expert(s) to conduct/document the traceback; industry expert(s) may ask clarifying questions and request additional insight from pilot volunteers as they work through each step of the traceback for the pilot scenario being executed
- Final output: Completed traceback diagram per scenario by industry expert(s); aggregated survey responses from pilot volunteers on use/completion of Produce Traceback Template and their participation experience; aggregated results/feedback from industry experts on the traceback process/outcome
- The Task Force will provide the completed traceback forms received for each scenario to the FDA to determine if the traceback can be replicated. *Note: Specific company names will not be included in the data set shared with the FDA.* The intent of this activity is to confirm if our 'industry' diagram and 'agency' diagrams match. Were we successful in the traceback (point of sale to farm), can the FDA use the data in the template to autogenerate a similar traceback diagram, without the need for clarification?

Note: All parties that receive/view traceback documents will need to sign the NDA. This includes industry organizations, pilot volunteers, and the identified industry expert(s). Company confidential information provided to FDA will not be subject to FOIA disclosure.



Pilot Objectives

- Testing of the Produce Traceback Template and related user guide
- Provide industry with better visibility into Coordinated Outbreak Response and Evaluation (CORE) traceability processes
- Allow industry to voluntarily improve supply chain visibility

What pilot activities will NOT do

- Not intended to promote or test the use of the Produce Traceability Initiative/ GS1-128 barcode on cases
- Not intended to test, evaluate, or endorse any specific software system
- Not intended to endorse the use of the Produce Traceback Template
- Not intended to make the Produce Traceback Template a requirement; it is meant to test what information is needed to conduct a proper traceback investigation for industry and the FDA
- Not a recommendation that excel spreadsheets be the only data format to be accepted by the FDA for submitting digitized traceback data
- Pilot activity is not meant to be time-consuming; industry participants are to share the data they have per the Produce Traceback Template

Task Force Timing

The initial pilot will commence end-July. The next two pilots will run in a series in about 2-week increments or in parallel; decision to be made by the Task Force upon completion of the first pilot. Upon the completion of each pilot an analysis will be completed by industry experts and the Task Force, which will then be provided to the FDA. When all 3 pilots are completed the Task Force will write a final report aggregating the results. The target date for presenting the report to the FDA is tentatively set for the end of September.