



Implementation Updates from PTI Leadership Council Companies

At the June 12, 2014 PTI LC meeting, council members agreed to share their implementation status updates with the broader produce community to encourage continued discussions and momentum for PTI best practices in the industry. These are the updates submitted so far.

Last Updated – Dec 15, 2014

To submit or update status reports, please email Krisztina Vida at kvida@gs1us.org

Alpine Fresh, Inc.

Alpine Fresh, Inc. was among the first in the produce industry to implement the PTI, going live on October 15, 2010 at our corporate headquarters in Miami, Florida. Alpine Fresh specializes in Asparagus, Berries, French Beans, Stringless Snap Peas, and a full line of Tropical Fresh cut specialties and handles more than twelve million packages of these items annually. Alpine is a Grower / Packer / Shipper and has farms and/or operations in 9 countries. It was apparent right away that the best way to get everything labeled correctly was to start at the point of origin. After two weeks of labeling at our corporate headquarters, our CEO and President decided to expand globally. Alpine Fresh now has 20 systems in 6 countries (which includes our US locations). Every system has the capability of printing the hybrid pallet tag and we are in the process of implementing the ASN (which includes ERP integration). We also have our sights set on high speed applicators and fast scanners to make the process more efficient and reliable. Alpine is not waiting to see what others are doing. Alpine is setting the bar. The HarvestMark traceability solution also gives us the ability to engage with consumers on packaging which helps us continuously improve our quality and freshness to better meet their needs.

Del Monte Fresh Produce N.A., Inc.

Del Monte Fresh Produce N.A., Inc. has always promoted food traceability. Our traceability system, like many growers/shippers, is based on internally developed programs with our own manual input codes for product origin and age.

Realizing the benefits of a standards based, electronically scanned coding system such as the PTI/GS1 initiative offered, Del Monte became an early adopter of PTI for North American shipments. The PTI/GS1 Standards interface directly with our current pallet-level ship manifest and ASN program. In addition, the standards allow us to include case level identification directly on those documents. PTI, in this regard, complements our port WMS programs.

Although difficult and costly to implement in the tropics, Del Monte Fresh Produce has been 100% compliant since 2011 for our imported products. Due to some recent acquisitions, we plan to be 100% compliant with our North American farms and shipments by the end of 2014.



Driscoll Strawberry Associates, Inc.

Driscoll's has initiated PTI for our product lines and expects to be fully integrated by August of 2015. We are using EDI to transmit PTI related data to our trading partners.

Four Seasons Produce

Four Seasons Produce continues to maintain the same PTI status as we have for the past three years. We are currently putting PTI labels on anything that is coming out of our packing operations. To date, we have not put on hybrid pallet tags or sent ASN information to our customers. We do not expect to realize any benefits from this implementation. We are closely monitoring the progression of PTI in the industry over the next 6-12 months.

Liberty Fruit

Liberty Fruit is PTI complaint on all items we change (repack and processing items). By July 14, 2014 we will have the ability to scan inbound and outbound cases if needed. Not one customer has asked for us to do so. We have invested \$90K to implement software and voice pick technology. We have not realized any benefits from our implementation. We see the industry in the next 6-12 months in terms on PTI to be at a standstill.

Oppy/The Oppenheimer Group

Oppy is currently case labeling 80% of our product volume. This past year has been spent working with growers to educate and validate their cases are PTI compliant. Our North American shippers are mostly compliant. Our main focus now is on South America and other import countries. We are working with growers on improving their lot definition, especially large growers that have many attributes in their lot end up with a very granular lot. We are also working on operational changes in our warehouses to capture GTIN and Lot on partial pallets when shipping. We have several growers with pallets containing multiple lots. A majority of our outbound shipments are partial pallets which requires capturing of GTIN/Lot at the time of shipping.

The challenge is managing the level of detail to ensure shippers accurately send the GTIN/Lot on partial pallets. With major retailers expected to require sending GTIN/Lot by ASN, we anticipate new learnings from these first production ASN transactions that will contain PTI data.



Paramount Citrus

Paramount Citrus has been working on PTI implementation since 2011. As of June 2014 we have implemented PTI at the case level for our operations in California and Texas and are currently working to have our Mexico operation up and running by August 2014. We have implemented the Hybrid Pallet Label in some of our operations and are currently evaluating the feasibility for all operations. One of the biggest benefits that we realized from our PTI implementation was the reduction in pre-labeled cartons with item codes. Our process today is real time when we apply the PTI label, this allowed us to reduce our inventory of corrugated shippers. Over the next 6-12 months we plan to continue to evaluate the need for a Hybrid Pallet Tag and better understand future ASN requirements.

Red Sun Farms

We have three countries we operate from: Mexico, Canada and, beginning this fall, United states, specifically Virginia. Our Mexico operation has been and continues to operate to Milestone #5 status (encode information in a barcode). Our Virginia facility once in operation this fall will also operate at Milestone #5.

Our Canadian operations within our own farms are also in compliance to Milestone #5 and the growers we are sourcing from are set up or will be set up to apply PTI compliant stickers and we hope to be able to capture this data by the fall as well.

We have working with our IT providers as well as our accounting team to interface and use one system to manage the PTI traceability within our system. Presently we are using two systems to manage and capture all the data needed to be in compliance and we feel that the work is redundant and needs to be streamlined into one system.

Once collected, the data can be used to monitor production and trends from all our facilities and we hope that in the near future we can realize planning, maximizing truck routing, container and packaging supplies as well.

We are hoping that our industry totally supports and embraces the PTI initiative to include all areas of production, all sizes of producers to ensure we do not miss anything to have the ability for a fast and quick recall and hopefully reduce the financial impact of a major recall.



Robinson Fresh

Robinson Fresh remains ready to execute against individual customer requirements, and have labeling, ASN and HPL capabilities and expertise. We are timing deeper investment with the alignment of specific requirements across the buyer group, and are positioned and willing to help drive out that alignment.

Sunkist

Our current PTI status is 100% compliance in all domestic and export channels for carton/RPC product coming out of the states. Part of the benefits we have realized is, as a by-product of the implementation we've given our packinghouse's label real estate within the quiet zone for internal use. We've also used the label to settle claim disputes (i.e. correct size, grade etc. shipped). In the next 6-12 months, Sunkist will be focusing on PTI compliance for our fresh fruit import program.

Tanimura and Antle

Tanimura and Antle is 100% PTI compliant from a case labeling perspective. We have chosen not to implement the Hybrid Pallet Label due to operational inefficiencies. We are positioned to use an ASN if and/or when our customers require us to do so. The benefit has been that we now have a standard professional appearing label that completely describes the item packed. We have been able to reduce our carton SKU count because we've been able to incorporate typical carton information in to the label. We are working towards being more operationally efficient in our handling PTI printing in the field. We are attempting to reduce wasted labels by 80%. As an industry, we don't think anything will change unless the buyers choose to do their part by implementing outbound tracking of boxes.

Wal-Mart

PTI case labeling on product in-bound to our DCs has been successfully implemented effective the beginning of this year. This has improved our trace-back abilities in time and granularity.

The consistent fonts and layouts of the labels also improved product visibility in DCs and stores leading to productivity gains. We see continued progress on PTI at all stages, more suppliers labeling, more buyers requesting labeling, everyone closing in on systematic abilities to track case GTINs. More clarity will emerge on how to effectively use ASNs, HPLs and voice pick codes to complete the chain to destination.