



Traceability and SIMBA

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Introduction

There's more to SIMBA's traceability application than preparing for a recall or putting labels on boxes. This system fits virtually seamlessly into any production process, replacing paper and pencil. It resides on the plant floor and provides real-time information to give management greater control over the business.

Traceability Defined

The term traceability is defined in different ways, depending on the agency or country. The European Union defines traceability as "the ability to trace and follow a food, ..., through all stages of production, processing and distribution." The International Organization of Standardization (ISO) defines it as "the ability to trace the history, applications or location of that which is under consideration."

For SIMBA, it is the ability to follow the movement of a food through specific stages of origin, processing and distribution in real-time. Having this immediate information during production and packing, the company has the ability to make adjustments on the fly – fix slow lines, improve yields and more.

Why Traceability?

The Produce industry has had some recent and devastating issues with food-borne illnesses. Now the FDA requires all produce grower/packer/shippers be able to trace the origin of all fresh food lots in case of a recall, as a report that traces the source and destination, within 24 hours of a recall.

For Seafood processors, traceability revolves around the subjects of sustainability, fraud, and international law violations (such as slavery in processing plants.) By having the ability to trace back to the source, seafood companies can verify they are complying with all laws, that their product is what they say it is, and that they can support their brand through proven sustainability initiatives.

Traceability and the Supply Chain

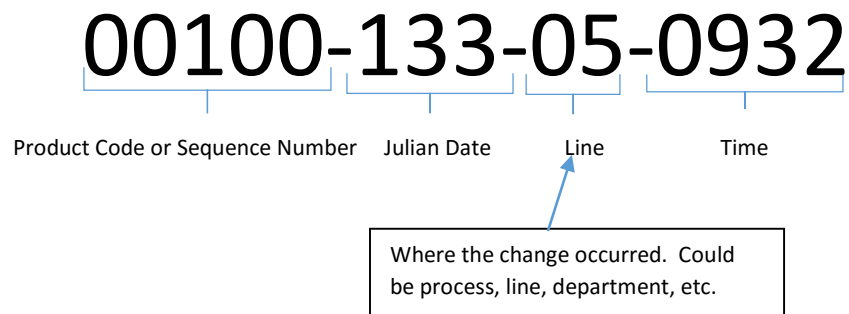
There are two major types of traceability initiatives: Internal, which tracks a product through various stages within a company's facility, and External, which tracks a product through changes in ownership – grower, processor, transportation company, distribution, retail.

Each type of company within the supply chain is required to keep specific records. For example, all must keep the name/address/phone number of the immediate supplying firm and the immediate subsequent recipient, while only a processor is required to identify ingredients.

The methodology used to collect the required details is necessarily different. A system that tracks internally begins and ends at the item's intake (receiving) and shipping, and is owned by the processor/packer. A system that follows a product throughout the supply chain is typically an internet subscription-based technology to which the information is uploaded as the product changes hands.

Lot Numbers – What and How?

A Lot Number identifies a specific product in a specific form. What this means is when a product changes form (filleted, sorted into different sizes, weight changes, etc.) it will require a new lot number. Most companies design their own lot numbers, which have a meaning for them. For example:



Some companies have very complex lot numbers; some simply use sequential lot numbers. The important thing to remember is that **if the form of the product changes the lot number should change**. Using the same lot number through the process is not true traceability and will result in higher costs if there is a recall and the inability to gather any good data about the production process (business intelligence).

Commingling and Mixed Lots

“Commingling” happens when lots are combined and a new lot number is created. This would typically occur when the product changes form (is processed in some way), such as multiple lots of fish are commingled at a fillet line. It can also occur simply when the company prefers to create a new lot number for internal informational purposes.

A processor or packer may choose to track “Mixed Lots” in one container. This could be “Jumbo Onions” from different days combined to create 50# cartons. In this instance, all lots should be listed on the package for traceability purposes.

Why SIMBA?

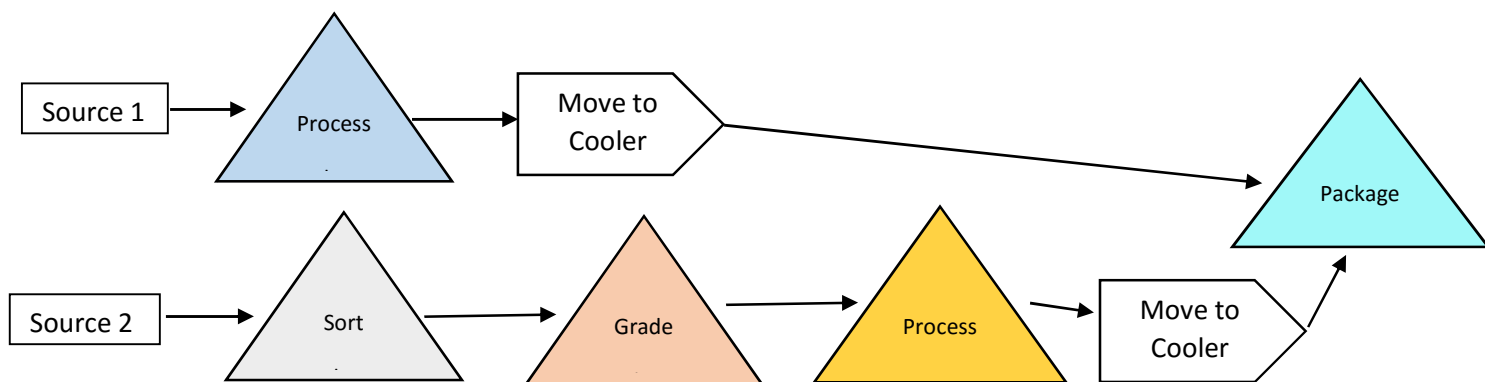
SIMBA provides company management with information IN REAL-TIME. It can be used to improve quality and profitability, manage production velocity, respond to Government inspectors and confirm information for customers and consumers.

There are many traceability systems available, including pen and paper. Most will track the lot at a high level, but don't handle tracking of commingled and mixed lots well. Those that do handle the re-boxing process often require cumbersome and error-prone manual data entry. SIMBA, as a result of its inherent process, automatically records traceability details in depth – no additional data entry required.

Because of this flexibility, SIMBA can mimic a current process with few if any changes required. What this means is faster implementation and less disruption within a processing or packing facility.

Why is Depth Important to You?

“Depth” as related to traceability is the ability to track multiple processed lots or multiple inbound sources to a single end product (finished good) **plus** the ability to track the history of its moves through the facility. Remember, each time the product changes form is should receive a new lot number. In this example each new color is a new lot number. (Note, the packaging stage may not require new lot numbers depending on whether lots are mixed and/or weights change.)



SIMBA will record when a products lot number changes and maintain a record of its source, its location changes, and its destination including shipping details (container number, van ID, etc.).

So why is it important to be able to track a product through lot number changes and location changes in real-time?

1. The FDA requires records regarding recalled lots be provided “no more than 24 hours after receiving official request.” SIMBA can provide fast reporting- just the push of a button.
2. SIMBA provides the ability to report in detail what has happened to a lot. It becomes easy to prove a product is not implicated in the recall.
3. SIMBA has the ability to link additional information such as temperature and other quality criteria.
4. SIMBA provides company management with information IN REAL-TIME. It can be used to improve quality and profitability, respond to Government inspectors and confirm information for customers and consumers.
5. Because of its flexible and detailed process, SIMBA is able to adapt to a company’s current product flow and reduce the cost of training and the time for implementation.
6. The validated traceability process protects a company’s brand and reputation.

Barcode Automation

The SIMBA process is based on printing a barcode label any time a product changes in form. The advantage of this is multifold:

1. SIMBA tracks the product carton, allowing for detailed reporting of commingled and mixed lots. It is able to handle large amounts of data in a precise manner, resulting in accurate and timely information.
2. The **#1 Issue for Traceability** is getting the right label on the right box. SIMBA does this *plus* allows for unlimited label formats.
3. Barcode data entry is virtually error free, so as product enters, moves around and leaves the warehouse, records are accurate.
4. Barcode scanning is 40-80% more productive than key entry or hand written data.
5. The SIMBA shipping process uses barcode scanning to record carton details, eliminating charge-backs.
6. Manifests and Bills of Lading are automatically printed, saving time.

SIMBA – High Return on Investment

SIMBA is an affordable system that:

- Provides enormous amounts of real-time information for management decisions on production velocity, inventory, shipping and more.
- Implements a compliant traceability system without time-consuming data entry or changes to the existing production process.
- Provides a feedback loop for quality improvement and product condition.
- Elevates professionalism and protects the brand.

For more information contact

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