Working Together for FSMA 204 and Enhanced Food Traceability

Join the FSMA 204 Workgroup

GS1 Standards are widely adopted in the food supply chain and enable unique identification for critical tracking events and key data elements (CTEs/KDEs), essential for farm-to-fork traceability as well as meeting regulatory and customer demands. Industry leaders convened by GS1 US, are collaborating on how to leverage existing investment in GS1 Standards to meet the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) 204 requirements. The FSMA 204 Workgroup operates under the structure of GS1 US industry initiatives for retail grocery and foodservice.

Under FSMA 204, the food industry will be required to keep additional traceability records of foods that are deemed high risk. Challenges are unique for each supply chain partner.

Manufacturer — Item — Case — Pallet — Transport — Distributor — Case — Transport — Operator — Case — Item — Consumer
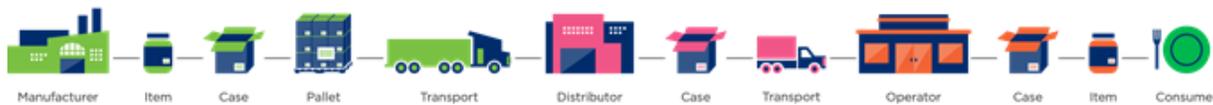
As an upstream provider, such as a farm or fishery, do you want to influence how standards are used in upstream production? Are you concerned about how the specific nuances in your supply chain processes need to comply with FSMA 204?

As a manufacturer, have you considered the product data that you will be required to capture and share? Are you prepared to help lead the conversation on the supply chain scenarios and factors that your trading partners need to consider, as well as drive alignment on their specific requirements to simplify adoption?

As a distributor, are you prepared to track and trace the food you distribute? Are you able to determine what you received, when you received it and from whom, and to which customers it was sent and when, while maintaning the manufacturer batch/lot?

As a retailer or operator, are you prepared for the additional data trading partners will need to send you as part of the new requirements? This is an opportunity to provide input on how standardized data impacts your operations.

As an association or university, do you have best practices or research that will help accelerate industry to help meet FSMA 204?

For all supply chain stakeholders, are you aware of the additional benefits GS1 Standards can provide for you and your trading partners, such as improved inventory management, stock rotation, product freshness and availablity, and much more?

Together, we will continue to leverage GS1 Standards to help meet FSMA 204 requirements by:

- Mapping existing supply chain processes and assigning specific CTE/KDEs within business process examples.
- Publishing industry guidance and tools using GS1 Standards.
- Continuing to shape the vision of how information about products, locations, and business transactions can be identified, captured, and shared.

GS1 Standards have been validated by FDA and industry as the best and most effective tracing tools in the following industry resources:

- The Produce Traceability Initiative
- Global Dialogue on Seafood Traceability
- Romaine Task Force
- FMI FSMA 204 Resource Center

To participate in the FSMA 204 Workgroup, your company needs to be a member in good standing in either of the following:

- GS1 US Retail Grocery Initiative

- Foodservice GS1 US Standards Initiative

- GS1 US Solution Partner – Silver level membership

Access the latest GS1 US FSMA 204 Resources here!

Access the FDA FSMA 204 Webpage here!

If you would like to join the workgroup, please contact us at foodsafety@gs1us.org.

About Us

GS1 US collaborates with business and industry to encourage the adoption and use of GS1 Standards-based solutions that can help improve business processes. The standards help support many regulatory compliance requirements for a number of industries including healthcare and the food industry. Through our industry initiatives program, GS1 US collaboratively works with industries and stakeholders to address challenges and meet goals through standards-based solutions. To learn more about GS1 US and how we're collaborating with industry visit gs1us.org/foodsafety.