



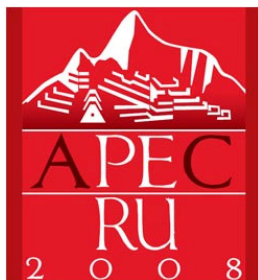
## Fisheries Working Group

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**FWG 04/2008 06**

### **Issue Note on Traceability New Approaches of Technology**

Purpose: Information  
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Harmonizing Quality and Traceability Standards for  
Pecten trade in Asia Pacific Region  
FWG 04/2008 project

**Lima, Peru  
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### **Traceability – new approaches of technology** (item 3.2.e)

1. Definition: “Traceability means the ability to trace and follow a food, feed, food-producing animal *or substance intended to be, or expected to be incorporated* into a food or *feed*, through all the stages of production, processing and distribution.” (EU Article 3).
2. Relates to origin of materials, processing history and the distribution and location of the product after delivery (“farm/sea to fork”).
3. Rationale: a risk management tool to assist in a food safety problem; helps facilitate the withdrawal of food with a safety problem; and provide accurate information to consumers.
4. Relevant regulations: HACCP rule, US Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Act 2002, EU regulation No. 178/2002.
5. EU Article 18 requirements: “one step back - one step forward” approach; must be able to identify the immediate supplier(s) and immediate customer(s) of products; applies to food business operators at all stages of the food chain (primary production, processing, distribution in EU)
6. It is common practice that traceability will be requested by importers as part of commercial contractual arrangements, sometimes beyond the “one step back - one step forward” principle.
7. Types of traceability – internal and external.
8. Traceability systems – paper based (manual, bulky, slow); semi-automatic (manual input in computers, palmtops); or computerized (recording mainly done automatically through sensors – RFID).
9. In fully automatic systems, radio transceivers (Radio Frequency Identification Devices - RFID) enable the linking of process information with specific product identities, location and time with a central computer database. A wide range of equipment now available that can be linked to computer databases for automatic recording of processing records ( e.g. weighing scales, printers, hand scanners, fat and temperature probes, pH meters, label printers etc).
10. Minimum information needed: name & address of supplier; nature of products which were supplied by him; name & address of customer; nature of products that were delivered to that customer; date of transaction / delivery. Additional information: volume or quantity; batch number; more detailed description of the product.
11. Implications of adopting advanced technology for traceability: cost; equipment; training of personnel; infrastructure; etc