Traceability and Recall

Adapted from the
Georgia GAP Food Safety Program
(http://gfvga.org/GAGAP/)
&
Kimberly R & E Center of University of Idaho College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
(http://www.kimberly.uidaho.edu/potatoes/gap/GAPwebpage/gapPDF08/Documentation.pdf)

**Traceability:**
The ‘ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of recorded identifications’ as defined by The International Organization of Standardization. The FDA requirements for a tracking system must be for “one step back, one step forward.”

Traceability may relate to:
- The origin of produce and ingredients
- The product history
- The distribution and location of the product after delivery.

**Traceability and Recall Plan:**
A documented, systematic plan that indicates how an organization will track and recall produce. The system should enable trace back one step and trace forward one step to occur in the event of a recall. Included in the plan are traceability and recall procedures, recall team roles with contact information, and contacts for product destinations. Additionally, the plan should have ready-to-use documents such as trace back/recall customer contact forms (stating who was called, date and time, and the purpose of the recall), crop history records, traceability logs, etc. These forms will be used to trace the origin of a product and account for all other products distributed from that same point of origin that falls under the recall scenario.

**Mock Recall:**
A *mock recall* is an internal exercise to test a company’s ability to trace and recall product or ingredients using their documented traceability and recall plan. When performing a “mock recall” one need to create a scenario of a problem with a delivered product. An operation then follows the traceability and recall plan, tracking date and time of contact. The mock recall should have as close to 100% reconciliation of all implicated product as possible. Make copies of all supporting materials to show how reconciliation occurred. BE SURE TO WRITE OR STAMP THE PHRASE, “MOCK RECALL,” ACROSS ALL COPIES OF SUPPORTING MATERIALS.
Sample Mock Recall Statement

(Write or stamp ‘Mock Recall’ across all documents distributed.)

____________ called to say that ______________ with traceability code __________
(Buyer) (product) (traceability code)

had a ______________ contamination. According to the Traceability Checklist,
(describe contamination)
____________ were harvested on ______ from ___________________________ and given
(product and weight) (date) (production area)

traceability codes. These items were delivered to ______________ on ____________.
(destination) (delivery date)

____________ and ______________ confirmed the tags of the purchase and agreed on
(grower/GAP designee) (buyer)

the pick-up and disposal of the product. The pick-up of product occurred on ____________ and
(date of pick-up)

disposal method of ______________ occurred on _____________.
(disposal method) (date of disposal)

The following ______________ with traceability codes __________ delivered to __________
(product) (traceability code) (destination)

were identified as having the same origin as the products recalled above. ______________ was
(buyer)

contacted and informed of the recall on __________. ______________ and ______________
(date) (grower/GAP designee) (buyer)

confirmed the tags of the purchase and agreed on the pick-up and disposal of the product. The pick-
up of product occurred on ____________ and disposal method of ____________ occurred on
(date of pick-up) (disposal method)

__________.
(date of disposal)
## Sample Traceability Checklist Log

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harvest Date</th>
<th>Product</th>
<th>Field or Production Area</th>
<th>Traceability Code</th>
<th>Vehicle ID</th>
<th>Outgoing Date</th>
<th>Delivery Destination and Contact</th>
<th>Amount in Delivery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/12/09</td>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>Field 12</td>
<td>0912TC1214</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9/12/09</td>
<td>Wholesaler X</td>
<td>12 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/12/09</td>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>Field 12</td>
<td>0912TC1215</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9/12/09</td>
<td>School District X</td>
<td>12 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/09</td>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>Field 14</td>
<td>0912TC1416</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9/13/09</td>
<td>School District Y</td>
<td>8 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/09</td>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>Field 13</td>
<td>0913TC1315</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9/13/09</td>
<td>Wholesaler X</td>
<td>20 cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/13/09</td>
<td>Carrots</td>
<td>Field 9</td>
<td>0912TC0912</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9/13/09</td>
<td>Hospital Z</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>