

## Key Concepts for Traceability and Batch Codification Examples

### **KEY CONCEPTS**

**Traceability:** Traceability is defined as the ability to discern, identify and follow the movement of a food or substance intended to be or expected to be incorporated into a food, through all stages of production, processing and distribution.

**Product Recall:** Product recall is defined as the action to remove food from the market at any stage of the food chain, including that possessed by consumers. For the purposes of these Regulations, recall refers to food safety and food quality-based recalls.

**Business identification:** Organizations (companies or individuals) need to use a Food Business Identification (BID) number to identify the business they manage and then share that number with suppliers and customers. The BID provides a uniform means of identifying a food business that is registered with the Competent Authority in a country. The BID is allocated by the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health or any other designated government agency which maintains the National Business Registry for Food business operators. Individual BIDs can be assigned to represent the organization as well as any individual trading subsidiaries.

**Batch/lot numbers:** Lot or Batch Number means a reference number assigned by a food business operator to a series of similar goods, or goods produced under similar conditions. Lot and batch are defined/used synonymously and interchangeably. All suppliers should assign Batch/Lot Numbers to products they create. The content and format typically varies from one company to another, depending on company practice and the precision desired. For example, a lot can represent all honey processed in a day at at one facility. It is important to remember that the range of products assigned to a single Batch/Lot Number also defines the minimum amount of product that may need to be removed from the supply chain in the event of a recall.

**Product labels:** Product labels are elements that physically identify traceable items, such as a tag, a sticker, or printing on product packaging that provides information about the product inside. Usually, they are attached to the packing of every packed product but also can be printed or affixed. Normally product labels include the following information:

- Business Identification Number (BID)
- Product Identification or Description
- Batch number
- Additional information (best before date, harvesting date, weight, quantity, price)
- Bar code (if required by customer)

## ***BATCH CODIFICATION EXAMPLES***

### **Example for beekeepers**

**ETB075/2-OR15.10.23**

ET = Ethiopia

B = Beekeeper

075 = National registry

/2 = Apiary No. 2

OR = Oromia Region

15.10.23 = Harvest date

### **Example for collectors**

**ETC012-OR.BA.AS.15.10.23**

ET = Ethiopia

C = Collector

012 = National registry

OR = Oromia Region

BA = Bale Zone

AS = Aseko Woreda

15.10.23 = Harvest date

### **Example for beekeepers**

**ETB075/2-OR.BA.AS.15.10.23**

ET = Ethiopia

B = Beekeeper

075 = National registry

/2 = Apiary No. 2

OR = Oromia Region

BA = Bale Zone

AS = Aseko Woreda

15.10.23 = Harvest date

### **Example for collectors**

**ETC012-GA11.09.23**

ET = Ethiopia

C = Collector

012 = National registry

GA = Gambela Region

11.09.23 = Harvest date