



Major retailers, wholesalers, foodservice operators and QSRs have made public commitments to food traceability. Each has a unique set of requirements, some of which extend beyond what's required under the FDA's [FDA's FSMA 204 food traceability law](#). ReposiTrak helps suppliers to support traceability data-sharing for *all* customers.

What companies are impacted by food traceability?

Any supplier could be impacted by food traceability. Under the FSMA 204 food traceability final rule, companies that manufacture, process, pack or hold foods on the [FDA's Food Traceability List \(FTL\)](#) have a legal requirement to share traceability data. Additionally, many retailers, wholesalers, foodservice operators and QSRs have expanded their traceability programs to include suppliers of ALL FOODS or ENTIRE CATEGORIES OF FOODS. Requirements vary by customer. If your customer has asked for food traceability, then you – as a supplier – are required to support food traceability.

What is the FDA's FSMA 204 final rule on food traceability?

The [FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act Section 204d \(FSMA 204\)](#) has changed the recordkeeping requirements for food supply chain companies. The law requires specific Key Data Elements (KDEs) to be captured, created and exchanged at specific Critical Tracking Events (CTEs) throughout the supply chain. The data needs to be stored for 24 months in a format that can be retrieved and shared with the FDA in a sortable spreadsheet within 24 hours of a request. Many retailers, wholesalers, foodservice operators and QSRs have expanded traceability requirements, asking suppliers for additional data and specific formatting, with accelerated timelines.

Where does traceability data come from?

Most growers and suppliers can find traceability data elements (including the "Key Data Elements" or KDEs required under FSMA) within their existing documents and/or electronic systems used for ordering, shipping and receiving.

Common documents and systems that contain traceability data include: Advance Shipping Notice (ASN), Bill of Lading (BOL), Packing List, Shipping Label, Invoice, Purchase Order, or an export from a proprietary internal system.

Do labels contain enough information for food traceability?

Some traceability data can be contained on a label, but some data cannot...simply because information (like the shipment date) is not available when the label is printed. Instead, some of the required data needs to be transmitted electronically EVERY TIME A SHIPMENT IS SENT. To learn more about why labels alone are not enough, [watch this short video](#).



Will ASNs work?

ASNs provide detail to the shipper *before* delivery occurs. It's a statement of what is *intended* to be shipped and does not always match what was actually *received*. Additionally, ASNs typically do not include the Traceability Lot Codes (TLCs) required by the FDA and your customers.

To learn more about why ASNs alone won't work for food traceability, [read this article](#).

I have the data. Can't I just send it as-is?

Even if you have the data and the ability to send it in an ASN 856 or other format, there's a 40% chance that your data contains errors. We know this from processing tens of thousands of traceability data files. Errors can be as simple as a typo, missed field, or dates that are inconsistently formatted.

ReposiTrak puts every traceability data file through a 500+ point error detection process. Detailed notifications are sent when errors are detected and our U.S.-based Customer Success Team works directly with suppliers to make corrections so that the data is as complete and accurate as possible before it's shared with the customer.

Clean data matters. [Read our whitepaper to learn more](#).

Who is ReposiTrak?

For more than 20 years, ReposiTrak has been solving supply chain collaboration challenges that involve tracking products from manufacturer and grower, through warehouses and distribution centers, all the way to the retail store. Food traceability is a part of our widely deployed and proven supply chain and compliance platform.

The ReposiTrak Traceability Network is now the world's largest operating network of suppliers, retailers and wholesalers sharing food traceability data. To learn more, visit: repositrak.com.

Why join the ReposiTrak Traceability Network?

There are many reasons to join the ReposiTrak Traceability Network.

- It takes weeks and sometimes months to get aligned with each customer's unique requirements, locate and consistently share the data, and to detect and fix errors.
- The FDA has sent a strong signal that the Food Traceability List will only grow, encouraging "voluntary adoption of these practices industry wide."
- Suppliers can also: Gain unmatched visibility into a safer food supply chain, tighten control on food waste, and work with ReposiTrak to implement a food recall response that saves time and money...All while fully complying with FSMA 204.