LOT TRACE AND SAFETY

Enhanced lot trace capabilities enable advanced analysis and reporting, improving responsiveness and reducing risk.

Key benefits

- **Responsiveness** — Lot Trace and Safety’s ability to retrieve lot information and construct a history in minutes enables manufacturers to respond quickly to requests for lot information.
- **Visibility into data** — Streamlined, complete view into lot information, forward and backward in time and at a granular level provides for more robust analysis and reporting.
- **Reduce risk exposure** — Quickly tracing the source of implicated food helps manufacturers minimize their risk exposure by being able to act quickly and decisively.

Recalls have a substantial impact on manufacturers. According to AMR Research, when a recall happens, the average cost of a write-off is $20 million, with 14 percent of companies having write-offs in excess of $50 million. Also, when a category has a recall, 57 percent of consumers stop buying the affected product and, in some cases, switch to a competitor’s brand.

Timely access to lot trace data is essential, as is having the traceability tools that enable manufacturers to rapidly pinpoint the source of a situation and quickly respond to a customer or distributor’s concerns. According to an Aberdeen Group report, best-in-class manufacturers have track and trace response times that are 43 hours quicker than the industry average. When it comes to the public scrutiny and spotlight that accompany a food-safety incident, time is truly of the essence.

RSM US LLP’s Lot Trace and Safety tool is built in Microsoft Dynamics® AX. Lot Trace and Safety expands the standard trace capabilities in Dynamics AX and provides a host of benefits to food and beverage organizations to streamline compliance efforts and respond quickly in critical business situations.

Typical issues Lot Trace and Safety addresses include:

- The need for lot trace by date and time ranges
- A requirement for trace results to be saved for further investigation
- Overcoming initial filter and selection criteria process limitations

In today’s highly regulated manufacturing industry, there are several scenarios that require manufacturers to quickly and easily access lot trace data, including:

- A customer identifies a lot with contaminants in it.
- A consumer identifies they have a bag, no lot, that they bought on a certain day from a certain retailer and has a contaminant.
- USDA requests sources of all products produced from a facility for a 14-day timespan two months ago.
- The supplier notifies the manufacturer of a contaminated batch and the manufacturer needs to initiate a recall.
- Multiple resource allocation formulas for the same production order, batch are recorded as multiple transactions in Dynamics AX and make the standard lot trace tree hard to read
- The need to trace lots forward and backward
- The need to exclude transactions or items from the trace

**Lot Trace and Safety features**

- **Recording of additional lot and batch attributes** – Lot Trace and Safety enables the recording of information such as vendor batch; batch dates (shelf life, best used by, expiration, maturity date) and country of origin. The batch information is recorded once during the receiving process and then the system maintains this data throughout the manufacturing cycle.

- **Fast search** – Should a problem arise, simply specify search criteria such as product dimensions and the associated date range. The trace process will retrieve the appropriate lots and construct the entire history in minutes rather than hours, allowing you to act quickly and decisively when it is needed most.

- **Advanced analysis and reporting feature** – Narrow the source and distribution of implicated food. The trace results are stored and can be analyzed and reported on.

- **Lot Trace Wizard** – This feature is like having a traceability expert on staff. The Lot Trace Wizard provides a user-friendly way to execute a trace through a series of intuitive questions that allow the user to pinpoint a bad lot. The wizard allows for results to be saved, so information is available later to compare different runs with varying data points.

We also understand that requirements are ever-changing. The wizard is built with the flexibility to incorporate new data points, even those not typically used, without making any programmatic changes. Users can access standard reports or very easily create a new report to meet an agency’s or customer’s particular needs. Reports can be exported into Excel as a .csv or .xls file and the system automatically generates a Lot Trace Workbench.

- **Lot Trace Workbench** – The Lot Trace Workbench, generated by results from the Lot Trace Wizard, provides users with a comprehensive view of all products that could potentially be affected by a recall process. Users have access to item availability at various storage dimension levels. In addition, users are able to select multiple items, lots or batches and apply one or many hold codes at one time by simply selecting the radio button for each item. This greatly speeds the process of analyzing recalled products and allows users to quickly place holds on one or more products if necessary. These hold codes seamlessly and automatically prevent users in real time from accidentally shipping tainted products.

- **Flexible and adaptable** – Lot Trace and Safety enables manufacturers to adapt to constantly changing regulatory and customer requirements without needing to make coding changes.

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