Electronic traceability: the theory

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CONCEPTS

<u>Traceability is:</u>

The ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of recorded identifications. *(ISO 8402)*

The ability to follow the movement of a food through specified stage(s) of production, processing and distribution. *(Codex Alimentarius)*

- Traceability is about being able to recreate the history

- Traceability is about *knowing your food business* and sharing that information when convenient or required

- There are many scopes, many depths, many breadths and many precisions possible


Source: www.foodtraceability.eu

- *Traceability does not refer to the (product) data itself*

- *There is no such thing as "traceability data"*

- *Traceability does not mean "ability to identify origin"; that is only part of traceability*

- *Traceability is the name of the systematic ability to access the data stored about a food item*

- *Traceable data elements are connected to identifiers, and traceable data elements are connected to each other*

This is the traceability 'The ability to trace …'
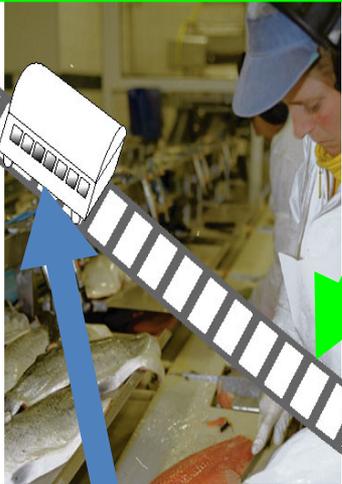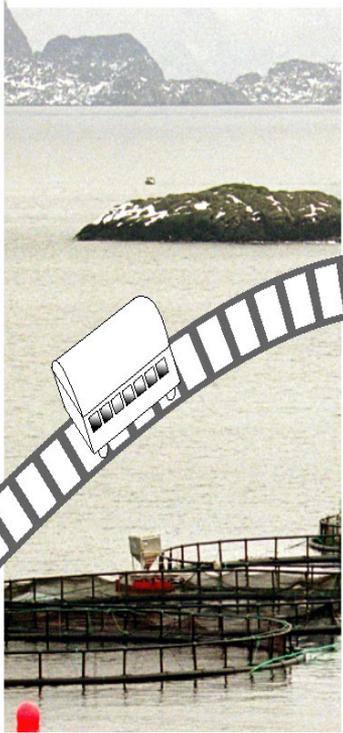
Information (systematic recordings)

Traceability is

- An *infrastructure,* much like rails
- It connects inputs to outputs, like connecting stations on a railway
- A system of claims which need independent verification

Electronic traceability allows us to

- Transport specific information from A to B just-in-time
- Increase the barrier to fraud
- Connect producers to consumers
- Streamline operations within the company and along the supply chain

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- Different stakeholders have very different views about food traceability

- Main stakeholders
  - Consumers and their representatives
  - Operation managers
  - Supply chain managers
  - Quality managers
  - Public authority