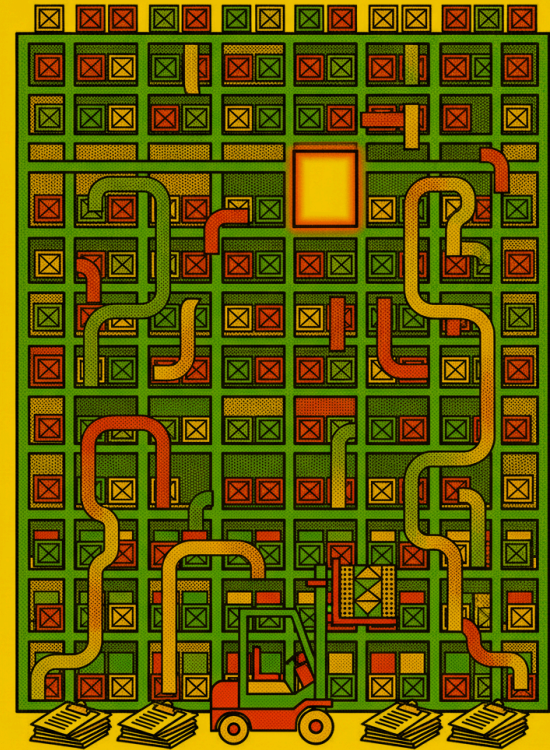


The 3-Minute Guide to Traceability Records

BREAKING DOWN A 24-HOUR ASK
IN LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES
TO FIND THE OTHER CABINET

PREPARED FOR INDEPENDENT FOOD DISTRIBUTORS





The Clock

WHAT THE RULE ACTUALLY ASKS

Rule breakdown: The FDA Food Traceability Rule covers anyone who holds listed foods — which is what a distributor does for a living. Three things sit inside it:

1

THE RECORDS

Key Data Elements at every tracking event — receiving and shipping, per lot, with the traceability lot code carried through.

2

THE CLOCK

Records go to the FDA within 24 hours of a request. Not the good copies. Not next week. The rule's own number is a day.

3

THE TEMPLATE

The FDA publishes the exact sortable spreadsheet it wants back — a tab per event, a column per element. The answer's shape is not a mystery.

The date that matters: Enforcement begins July 20, 2028. The first compliance date already passed once — this one has a countdown on it.

1





The Drift

WHERE THE LOTS GET LOST

Drift breakdown: Nobody is missing the records. They are just in four places, and none of the four talks to the others:

1

THE PAPER

Receiving slips in one cabinet, bills of lading in another, supplier invoices in a third. All real. All findable — eventually.

2

THE SYSTEM

The warehouse software holds quantities and locations, and was bought years before anyone said the words lot-level.

3

THE MEMORY

The founder can find any case in nine aisles without looking. That skill retires when he does, and it never could fill a spreadsheet.

What it costs: The FDA's own 2026 meeting named lot-level tracking as where the industry is stuck. A drill on one lot is how a shop finds out it is stuck too.





The Gate

THEIR TABS, THEIR COLUMNS, YOUR LOTS

Workflow breakdown: The sheet does not answer the FDA for you. It changes what you can see before anyone asks:

1

IT READS

Your receiving paper, your BOLs, your system's export. It organises what exists; nothing is re-typed.

2

IT FILLS

The FDA's own template, lot by lot, with the document behind every cell named. A blank prints MISSING — never 'probably fine'.

3

IT STOPS

The sheet shows the state of play. Sending anything to anyone stays a human call, and it stays yours.

The outcome: Six days of hunting becomes one signed page.

3





The Gate

THE SEQUENCE, IN FULL

Gate breakdown: Every step is named, and the last one is a person. This is the whole chain, in order — there is no step after the signature and no way to skip to it:

1

IT READS

Your receiving paper, invoices, bills of lading and the warehouse system's export — in whatever shape they are already in. It organises what exists; it does not ask you to re-enter it.

2

IT MATCHES

Every lot against the rule's own Key Data Elements, tracking event by tracking event, with the document behind each cell named.

3

IT FILLS THEIR SHEET

The FDA's published sortable-spreadsheet template — their tabs, their columns, your lots. Never a format we invented.

4

A PERSON SIGNS

The owner signs the sheet before it goes to anyone. It has no credentials to answer the FDA, contact a supplier, or send anything itself.

The rule: Nothing sends, files or closes itself. The workflow prepares the decision; a named person makes it.

4





When It Is Wrong

BECAUSE SOMETIMES IT WILL BE

Failure breakdown: Every workflow is wrong sometimes. What matters is whether it tells you, and whether it can act on its own while it is wrong. Ours is built so the answer to the second is no:

1

IF A LINE IS UNREADABLE

It prints MISSING. A smudged receiving line or a torn BOL is reported as unreadable — it is never counted as found.

2

IF A LOT CODE CONFLICTS

It flags the lot and shows both documents. It never picks the likelier one quietly.

3

IF THE PAPER IS GONE

The cell stays blank and says so. Blank means unverified — never 'probably fine' and never 'no'.

4

IF THE FDA ASKS TOMORROW

The sheet goes out exactly as signed, gaps showing. An honest MISSING beats an invented lot code in front of a regulator, every time.

Why this page exists: We could not find a competitor in this trade publishing a failure path. We would rather print ours than have you discover it.

5

Thanks for reading.

THE WORKFLOW FILM, THE SPEC SHEET AND THIS GUIDE ALL PRINT FROM ONE BRIEF.

PRODUCED BY

mrwilson

FOR

INDEPENDENT FOOD DISTRIBUTORS

The audit is free, and it produces this guide again for your shop — your records, your obligations, and the one thing worth fixing first.

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