



# Press Release

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## **CIES Traceability Task Force releases guidelines for implementation of traceability in the food supply chain**

**Paris, France.** CIES – The Food Business Forum published today a concise guide to implementing traceability in the food supply chain. The document has been prepared in view of the obligation for all food companies in the European Union to have a traceability system in place by January 2005. Similar requirements are also planned for food companies in the US.

The CIES Traceability Task Force, made up of representatives from EAN International and from CIES member companies (Carrefour, Coca-Cola HBC, Delhaize Group, ICA, Kraft Foods International, Spar Austria and Tracetracker), developed these guidelines in order to help senior management of food companies better understand traceability. They are designed to assist food businesses in implementing traceability systems, by highlighting the pitfalls when developing such a system and, above all, how to ensure that systems can be aligned along the food supply chain. The guide focuses on food, rather than product safety in general.

Hugo Byrnes, Director of Food Safety programmes at CIES, commented that “the purpose of this document is not to provide a technical manual for implementing traceability, but rather a short overview of the various aspects that have an influence on or are influenced by traceability. It is therefore complementary to other existing traceability documents.”

The CIES guide, “Implementing Traceability in the Food Supply Chain”, can be downloaded from <http://www.ciesnet.com/pdf/globalfood/impl-traceab-doc.pdf>

Traceability will also be one of the key topics at the upcoming CIES conference “Tag, Trace & Synchronise – The Retail Experience in Data Synchronisation, Traceability and RFID” which will take place in Paris on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> October 2004 (<http://www.ciesnet.com/programmes/it/next.htm>)

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