

Exwold has launched it's Track & Trace capabilities.

SC Trace is a Crop Protection initiative designed to improve transparency in the supply chain, improve safety & to prevent product counterfeiting.

Established in 2011 SC Trace developed a proposal and guidance for coding, marking and data transmitting (assisted by Cristal who are the recognised authority for ID/ Coding in the Agro business) for the French market . This has been managed by AgroEDI and is recognised by ECPA, UIPP and the European Commission.

The implementation of SC Trace is now a requirement in French law; although there have been delays & now Turkey is also implementing this requirement.

If you are selling Crop Protection products to either country you must have this capability.

In practice traceability involves the identification of each container (in Exwold's case bottles of 100g upwards & bags from 1kgs upwards) by use of a Data matrix code. The data matrix currently includes a Unique Product Identifier, Batch number & Date of manufacture. The secondary packaging which is generally cartons in Exwold's case must also include this information. The pallets also require this information plus Barcoding (EAN Code).

Exwold have been working with local company ITS to install capabilities to include machine readable information in the form of 2D matrix codes.

We are now able to offer this capability for all products that are distributed to the French market. As a contract manufacturer where a flexible approach to packing is essential, this has proved a challenging project as requirements continue to be modified & there are still great differences in specific customer requirements.

Information we are able to input in the data matrix on the primary & secondary packaging:

GTIN Number (generally supplied by our client)

Batch Number (maximum of 10 Characters)

Production Date

On the pallet the current requirements are as follows:

GTIN Number (customer supplied)

The number of trade units

Batch Number

Production Date

SSCC Number (company code (7-8 digits) to be provided by customer)

The Exwold investment in this area has been significant & focused on market compliance to the traceability obligations.

We are grateful to some of our major clients who have shared their experiences & hope that we can continue to work with them as the requirement is implemented in other regions & no doubt modified.

The implementation of this system requires the involvement of the entire Crop Protection industry & the importance of traceability to ensure finished product safety is a industry priority.

It is challenging to accommodate specific customer requirements as these can be very different & at the same time to maintain the flexibility of operations, so our priority over the next 12 months is to continue to ensure compliance.