



Traceability in the Crop Protection industry in Europe
Presentation to the GS1 HUG conference, 23.3.2006



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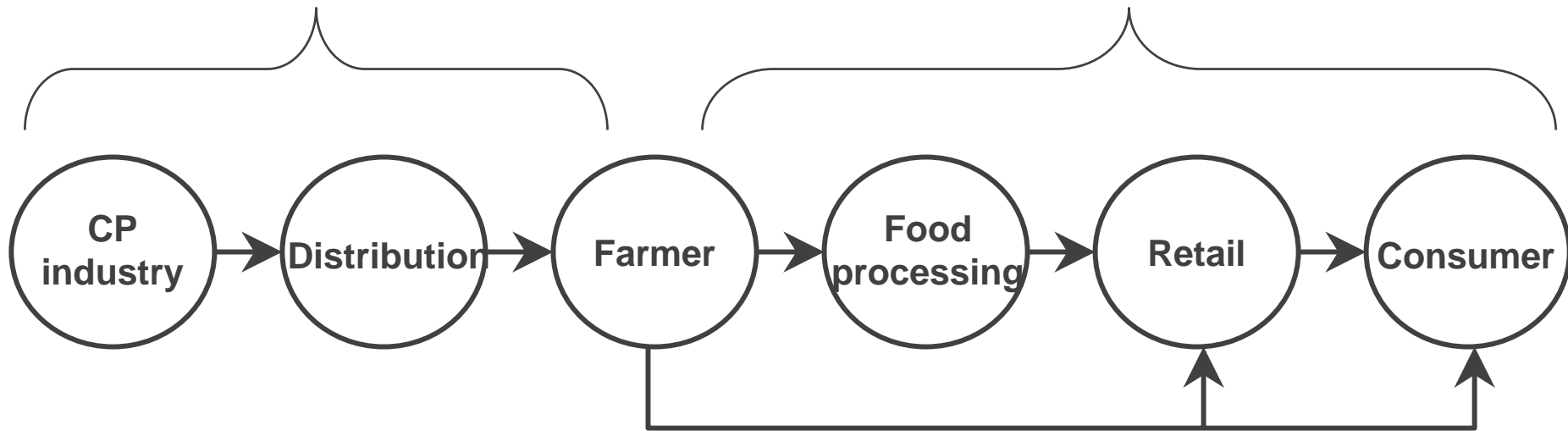
The chain

CP products

Logistics, HSE, Quality

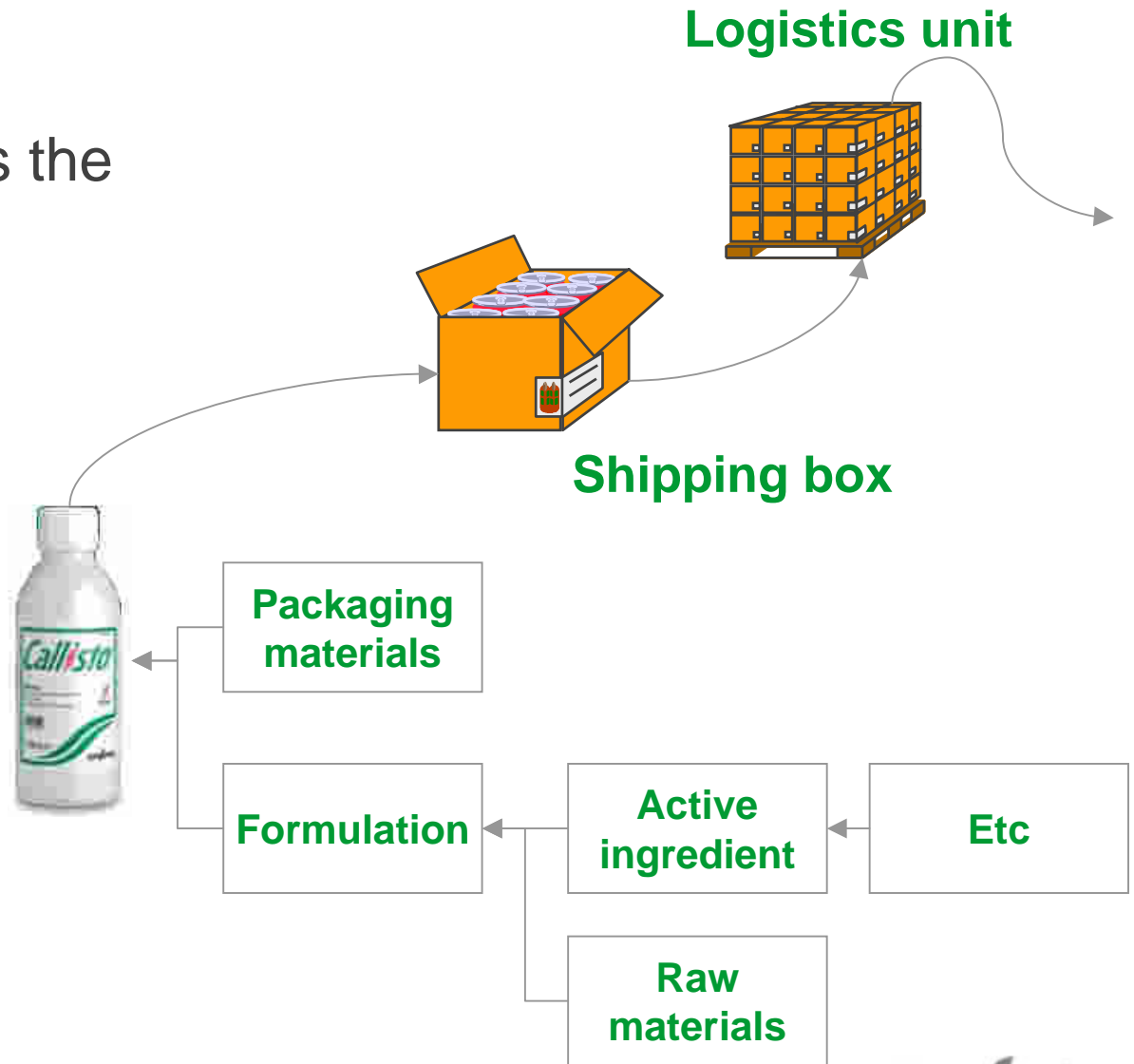
Food products

Food safety



Structure of our products

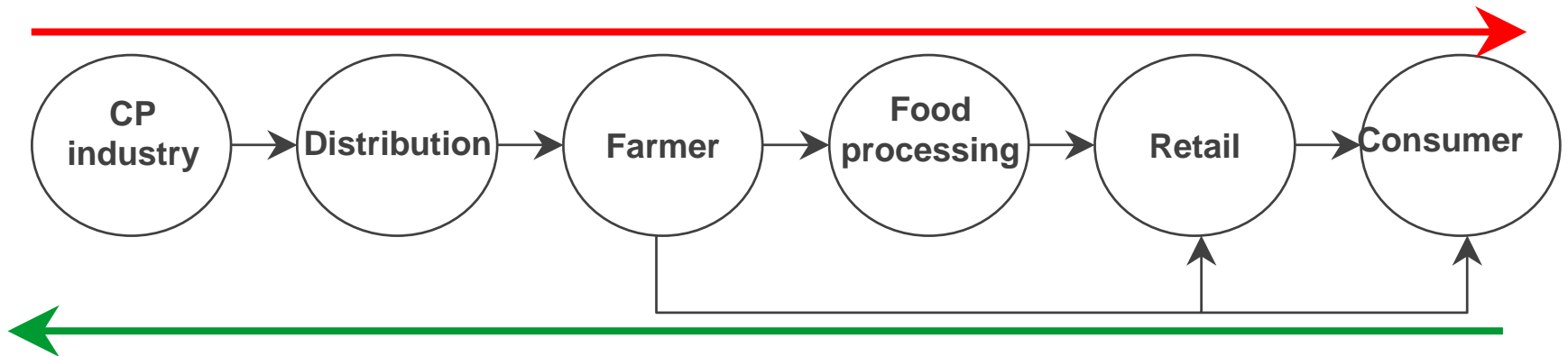
This is a simplified picture, but it shows the important steps.



Tracking and Tracing

Product tracking

means the capability to follow the path of a specified unit of a product through the supply chain as it moves from point to point between organisations. Products are tracked routinely for stock management and logistical purposes.



Product tracing

means the capability to identify the precise identity of a particular unit or batch of product located within the supply chain by reference to records held upstream in the supply chain. Products are traced for purposes such as product recall and investigating complaints.

Tracing and the FAO Code of Conduct

International Code of Conduct on the Distribution and Use of Pesticides

10.2.5 identify each lot or batch of the product in numbers or letters that can be read, transcribed and communicated by anyone without the need for codes or other means of deciphering;

10.2.6 are marked with the date (month and year) of formulation of the lot or batch and with relevant information on the storage stability of the product.

Finding the batch number is an issue

The winner is....



What is a traceable item?

The farmer documents the use of CP products, it is not required to write down the batch number

→ The product is the traceable item

We have batch control for all our products

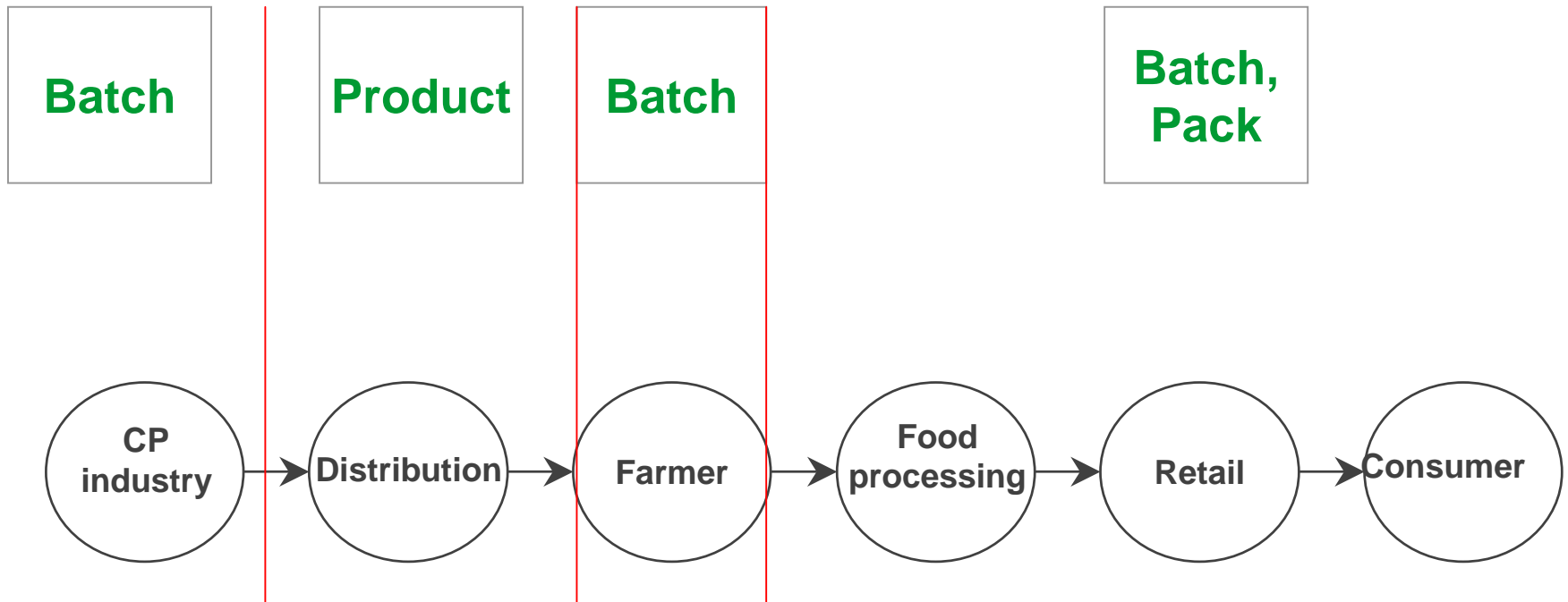
→ The batch is the traceable item

Apart from error control we see no reason why the single pack should be identified

→ We are not looking at serialised items

How traceability works today

Traceability works on different levels depending upon where we are in the chain.



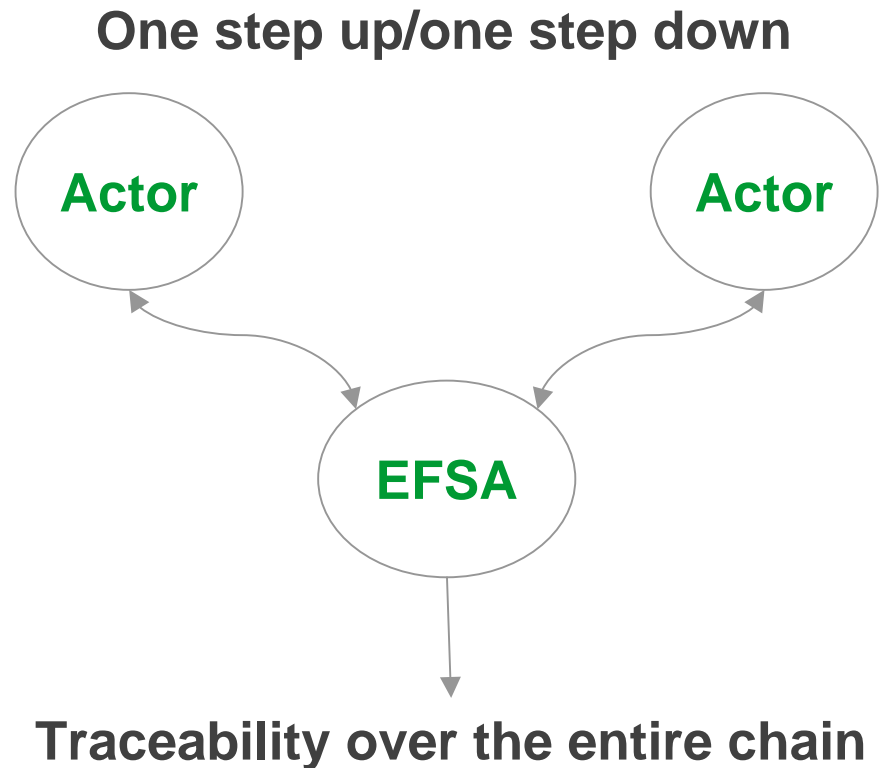
Requirement: EU regulation 178/2002 (Food law)

„This Regulation provides the basis for the assurance of a high level of protection of human health and consumers‘ interest in relation to food.“

Requires

- Autocontrol (QA/QC)
- Notification
- Traceability

Commission comments to the regulation however exclude our part of the chain



How our industry prepares for the future

We expect that additional requirements will be defined, e.g. Belgium legislation that requires traceability on the batch level also for our products (implementation on hold).

Even though the CP industry has solutions in place, which implements traceability on the batch level within our premises, we expect that extensions supporting our trading partners will be needed.

We have hence been working on industry wide standards for automatic data capture in order to support traceability. These standards have been developed on the European level and have been harmonised with North America.

The foreseen data standard

	Data elements	Additional considerations
Consumer item	GTIN	In the US also serial number. In Europe possibly batch number
Trade item	GTIN, batch number	Serial number?
Logistics unit	SSCC	Other elements depending upon processes to support and in agreement between partners

Straight forward and as in the GS1 traceability standard!