BS ISO 12875:2011

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Traceability of finfish products — Specification on the information to be recorded in captured finfish distribution chains

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National foreword

This British Standard is the UK implementation of ISO 12875:2011.

The UK participation in its preparation was entrusted to Technical Committee AW/234, Fisheries and Aquaculture.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

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ISBN 978 0 580 66578 3

ICS 67.120.30

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This British Standard was published under the authority of the Standards Policy and Strategy Committee on 30 September 2011.

Amendments issued since publication

Date	Text affected

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD

ISO 12875

First edition
2011-09-15

Traceability of finfish products — Specification on the information to be recorded in captured finfish distribution chains

Traçabilité des produits de la pêche — Spécifications relatives aux informations à enregistrer dans les chaînes de distribution des poissons issus de la pêche

Reference number
ISO 12875:2011(E)

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Published in Switzerland

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Foreword

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International Standards are drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

The main task of technical committees is to prepare International Standards. Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights.

ISO 12875 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 234, *Fisheries and aquaculture*.

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Introduction

There are increasing demands for detailed information on the nature and origin of food products. Traceability is becoming a legal and commercial necessity.

The ISO definition of traceability concerns the ability to trace the history, application and location of that which is under consideration, and for products this can include the origin of materials and parts, the processing history and the distribution and location of the product after delivery. Traceability includes not only the principal requirement to be able to physically trace products through the distribution chain, from origin to destination and vice versa, but also to be able to provide information on what they are made of and what has happened to them. These further aspects of traceability are important in relation to food safety, quality and labelling.

The scheme specified in this International Standard does not demand perfect traceability, i.e. that a particular retail product should be traceable back to a single vessel or catch, or vice versa from origin to destination. Pragmatically, it is recognized that mixing of units is likely to occur at a number of stages in the distribution chains, for example, in grading at auction markets prior to sale and in the processing of raw materials into products. Where such mixing occurs, the food business is transforming the trade units. The requirement for traceability is that the business records the identifier of the received trade units that may be input to each created trade unit, and vice versa. The particular product is then traceable back to a finite number of vessels or catches, and vice versa.

Given the enormous variety of fish products and of their distribution chains that operate within and between different countries, and varying legal requirements, the information specifications cannot itemize all the information that may possibly be required in every situation. This International Standard provides a generic basis for traceability. Flexibility is allowed for businesses to record further information, in their own non-standardized files, but keyed to the same unit IDs.

The information remains in the ownership of the food business that generated it, but is available when required by law for the purposes of traceability (in the event of a food safety problem) or by commercial agreement between businesses. The structure, names and content of the information is standardized so that it can be readily communicated from business to business through the distribution chains, ensuring common understanding of terms and meanings.

Commercial arrangements for businesses to communicate information through the distribution chains are to be encouraged, particularly for the information desired by the trade to be visible at the various transaction points in the chains, but that is not the subject of this International Standard.

This International Standard is designed with electronic representation and communication of data in mind, but this is not a requirement when using this International Standard. The specifications can be met by paper systems, although the obvious benefits of business efficiency, including rapid communication, will be lost.

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INTERNATIONAL STANDARD ISO 12875:2011(E)

Traceability of finfish products — Specification on the information to be recorded in captured finfish distribution chains

1 Scope

This International Standard specifies the information to be recorded in marine-captured finfish supply chains in order to establish the traceability of products originating from captured finfish. It specifies how traded fishery products are to be identified, and the information to be generated and held on those products by each of the food businesses that physically trade them through the distribution chains. It is specific to the distribution for human consumption of marine-captured finfish and their products, from catch through to retailers or caterers.

NOTE Together with ISO 12877 for farmed finfish, this international Standard provides a basis for implementing chain traceability of finfish.

2 Normative references

The following referenced documents are indispensable for the application of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

ISO 8601, *Data elements and interchange formats — Information interchange — Representation of dates and times*

ISO 3166-1, *Codes for the representation of names of countries and their subdivisions — Part 1: Country codes*

3 Terms and definitions

For the purposes of this document, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1
traceability
ability to trace the history, application or location of that which is under consideration

NOTE 1 When considering product, traceability can relate to

— the origin of materials and parts,

— the processing history, and

— the distribution and location of the product after delivery

NOTE 2 Adapted from ISO 9000:2005, definition 3.5.4.

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3.2
Unique Logistic Unit Identifier
ULUI
any composition established for transport and/or storage that needs to be identified and managed through the supply chain

3.3
Unique Trade Unit Identifier
UTUI
smallest unit which is guaranteed to retain its integrity as it moves from one link of the chain to the next

NOTE UTUI is the smallest unit that is kept whole and undivided with no change in content or label/identification.

4 Abbreviations

In this document, the following abbreviations apply.

EFSIS European Food Safety Inspection Service

EPC Electronic Product Code, a unique number provided by GS1 used to identify instances of trade items (individual trade units) particularly suited for representation in an RFID chip

FAO The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FBO Food Business Operator, generic term for someone in the supply chain who processes, sends or receives relevant trade units or logistic units

GLN Global Location Number, a 13 digit globally unique number provided by GS1 used to identify parties and physical locations

GMP Good Manufacturing Practice

GS1 Global non-profit organization dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency and visibility of supply and demand chains globally and across sectors. Previously EAN/UCC

GTIN Global Trade Item Number, a 8-14 digit globally unique number provided by GS1 used to identify types of trade items (product types)

HACCP Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points

HS Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System

ID Identifier

LU Logistic Unit

MSC Marine Stewardship Council

RFID Radio-Frequency Identification, the use of an object (typically referred to as an RFID tag) applied to or incorporated into a product for the purpose of identification and tracking using radio waves

SCI Scientific

SGTIN Serialized Global Trade Item Number, a unique number provided by GS1 used to identify instances of trade items (individual trade units) by extending the GTIN

SSCC Serial Shipping Container Code, an 18 digit globally unique number provided by GS1 used to identify logistics units

TU Trade Unit

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5 Principle

The fundamental principle of chain traceability is that trade units (TUs) shall be identified by unique codes (UI). This code may be globally unique in itself (for instance the GS1 SGTIN or EPC numbers) or it could be unique in that particular scope only, which means that there should be no other TUs in that part of the chain that may have the same number. If the scope (the company, the chain, the sector, the country, the product type, or similar) is assigned a globally unique number, the combination of the globally unique scope number and the locally unique TU number shall constitute a globally unique identifier for the TU.

NOTE 1 The UTUI term is introduced to indicate a TU identifier which is or can be made globally unique.

Trade Units (TUs) may be grouped together to make Logistic Units (LUs) or LUs may be grouped together to make higher level LUs. A fundamental principle of chain traceability is that logistic units shall be identified by a unique code. This code may be globally unique in itself (for instance the GS1 SSCC code) or it could be unique in that particular scope only, which means that there should be no other LUs in that part of the chain that may have the same number. If the scope (the company, the chain, the sector, the country, the product type, or similar) is assigned a globally unique number, the combination of the globally unique scope number and the locally unique LU number shall constitute a globally unique identifier for the LU.

NOTE 2 The ULUI term is introduced to indicate an LU identifier which is or can be made globally unique.

The key to the operation of this traceability scheme is the labelling of each unit of goods traded, whether of raw materials or finished products, with a unique ID. This shall be done by the food business that creates each unit. Businesses that transform units, such as processors who convert the units of raw materials received into the products dispatched, shall create new units and shall give them new IDs.

As indicated above, the simplest way of implementing UTUIs and ULUIs is to use the GS1 SGTIN/EPC and SSCC codes. This practice is recommended, but is not mandatory. The central principle behind this International Standard is that businesses which create TUs or LUs should assign unique numbers to them.

Each of the food businesses that create or physically trade in those units, throughout the distribution chains from catcher through to retailer or caterer, shall generate and hold the information necessary for traceability. The information is to be held on paper or electronically, keyed to the unit IDs.

The types of businesses identified in this International Standard to make up the distribution chains for captured finfish are as follows:

— fishing vessels, see 6.3;

— vessel-landing businesses and auction markets, see 6.4;

— processors, see 6.5;

— transporters and storers, see 6.6;

— traders and wholesalers, see 6.7;

— retailers and caterers, see 6.8.

Any given captured finfish distribution chain may be made up of some or all of these components but not necessarily in the sequence listed.

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6 Requirements

6.1 Identification of the units traded

Businesses that bring in supplies of fishery products from outside of the domain of the specifications and trade them onwards shall identify each unit traded and record associated information elements as indicated in Table 3 to Table 9.

6.2 Recording of information

To distinguish between the different categories of information, all information elements are classified as either 'shall', 'should' or 'may', with a definition, see Table 1.

Table 1 — Classification of informative elements

	Definition	Explanation
'shall'	This category contains recordings related to identifiers and transformations that is necessary in order to trace the history, application or location of an entity. This means the unique identity of trade and logistic units, as well as the dependencies between the identifiers of inputs and outputs in a process.	'Shall' elements are data elements that it is deemed necessary to record to ensure that traceability is possible. Data elements relating to product properties are not in this category, even if these properties are essential for other purposes like product documentation or food safety.
'should'	This category contains parameters that describe and provide supporting information on the units being traced. Common parameters required by law, commercial requirements or good manufacturing practices are recorded, but only where an established international format or data list for the value exists.	This includes parameters like 'species', 'ID of food business', 'production date', etc. If certification according to this International Standard is to happen in the future, the 'should' parameters are to be considered.
'may'	This category contains parameters that describe and provide supporting information on the units being traced. It contains parameters that are not part of the 'should' category, but that may still be useful or relevant to record. It also contains parameters that may be deemed important, but where no established international format or data list exists.	The 'may' category is informative only, and it is included to enable use and uptake of this International Standard. If certification according to this International Standard is to happen in the future, the recording of 'may' parameters are not to be considered when evaluating adherence. The list of 'may' elements is not definitive or exclusive, it is by design extendible, and the threshold for including new elements in this category is low.

Businesses that physically trade in fishery products shall generate and hold the required information, appropriate to the type of business, for each of the units traded.

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