





## Product Recall & Traceability: A Strategic Approach to Food Safety

### WHY IT MATTERS




Product recall and traceability are core components of an effective Food Safety Management System (FSMS), mandated by ISO 22000:2018 and HACCP. They are critical to protecting consumer health, ensuring compliance, and preserving brand reputation.

Any delay or inaccuracy in product recall or traceability can lead to serious consequences, including foodborne illnesses, legal liability, and loss of client trust.

### TRACEABILITY – Know Your Product, Know Your Risk









-  Maintain accurate records of product source, processing, storage, and distribution.
-  Label all batches clearly with production date and supplier details.
-  Ensure all teams know how to trace a product's journey from supplier to end-user.
-  Keep documentation updated and accessible for audits and investigations.

### KEY REMINDER:

-  Regularly review your product tracking system.
-  Train staff on recall procedures and mock drills.
-  Ensure vendors and internal teams understand their roles in case of recall.

### PRODUCT RECALL – Act Fast, Act Right

In the event of a suspected contamination or defect:

-  **Stop Use:** Immediately stop using the suspected product.
-  **Isolate Stock:** Label and segregate affected items – “Do Not Use – Under Investigation.”
-  **Notify Locations:** Inform all delivery points to halt use and isolate the same batch.
-  **Inform Management:** Report to Project Manager and HSE team – no unilateral decisions.
-  **Investigate:** Define the issue, verify the product defect, and assess the affected scope.
-  **Assemble Recall Team:** If needed, recall decisions must be made by authorized personnel only.
-  **Communicate Clearly:** Keep Leadership, Operations, and client stakeholders informed as needed.
-  **Document Everything:** Keep records of the investigation, communication, and resolution steps.

