

CRISTAL CO-PACK RECOMMENDATIONS

Management of Co-Packs

Addendum to CRISTAL Common Practices for
Bar Coding and Labelling of Agro Products

Developed by CropLife International Traceability Project Team in February 2017

Introduction

Bundling or grouping different products together in one unique sales unit, also called a “co-pack”, requires specific management of the traceability data related to such packs.

In this document, you will find the recommendations from CRISTAL regarding the key data for traceability (GTIN, batch number, production date) and their handling for co-packs and twin packs.

Definitions and Recommendations

1. Types of co-packaging

- **Twinpacks**
Components physically assembled (welded, glued), non-separable
- **Multipacks**
Components physically assembled in a bundle (box) or with a common sleeve



TWINPACK



MULTIPACK

2. Definition of a co-pack

- Composed of at least two components, physically assembled
- Own GTIN and article designation
- Own batch number and production date
- Own 2D data matrix code
- One item line within sales administration and logistics operations (order, delivery, invoice)

3. Management of co-packs (co-pack vs components)

- The management of the components should be done upstream, within the production process. Each supplier is responsible for the internal management of the data regarding the components.
- The co-pack itself is considered as the consumer unit, to be managed downstream with its own 2D data matrix (GTIN, batch number production date).

4. Management of co-packs (production date)

- CRISTAL recommends to use the production date of the oldest component as the production date for the co-pack.

5. Management of co-packs (batch number)

- The supplier must ensure the traceability of each component and its link to the batch number of the co-pack.

6. Management of co-packs (distribution)

- Distributors who are assembling co-packs as defined above must ensure the same management requirements in terms of identification (creation of a specific GTIN) and dynamic data (batch number, production date) as the data communication in parallel to the goods shipment.
- If a co-pack is separated within the distribution channel and the components are sold separately, the management and the data transmission of the information (GTIN, batch number, production date) related to each component must be ensured by the one who realized the separation.

Remark

Based on the definition of co-pack and the underlining traceability data management, **service packs** are not considered as co-packs.

- **Service packs**

- Components sold together, but not physically assembled. Each component is managed as an individual article within logistics operations and documents (for example if the service pack is composed of two components (articles), the delivery document will have two lines).

