



# Lawson M3 Trace Engine

Provide Transparency and Trust



## **Improved traceability will improve food safety and trust along your entire supply chain**

Whether your business handles meat, fish, dairy, frozen foods, or is a ready to eat or feed manufacturer, Lawson M3 Trace Engine can help you meet growing regulatory and customer demands for food safety information while simultaneously reducing costs associated with product recalls and quality issues.

The concept of food safety through tracing is not new to the food and beverage industry. Food safety and integrity have always been a concern for producers of beverages, meat, dairy, and other foods. Today, risks are more prevalent and complex. Increased globalization of food supply chain sourcing and distribution, more rapid spread of contamination and disease, and the threat of international terrorism, have all brought the issues of food safety and traceability into the limelight. In this uncertain world, whether you do business as an ingredient supplier, manufacturer, processor, distributor, retailer or transportation provider, taking steps to ensure the safety of food products from raw materials to the consumer's table has become a top priority. Not only is it the right thing to do, it is also a practical way to protect your business and retain your customers.

Trace Engine helps you to ensure food safety so you can protect your business, retain your customers, and create a new competitive advantage.

## Comprehensive Enterprise and Supply Chain Traceability

In the past, food manufacturers, processors, distributors and retailers have typically turned to a variety of information technology solutions to solve specific, and usually localized, business problems. Businesses have since become more complex and data more voluminous. Subsequently, companies are increasingly turning to integrated enterprise software systems to tie together their main business processes and transactions.

However, in most companies and certainly at the supply chain or partial supply chain level, islands of key information still exist, including details from the LIMS system, data from the manufacturing execution system area, and information from the transporter. The enterprise system can never hold all of this information.

With improved food traceability as one of your business goals, it is important to ensure that the enterprise, your suppliers and your customers are all involved and have access to this information, thereby creating transparency and trust along the supply chain.

Trace Engine is a standalone, web-based configurable repository that can receive, filter and interpret any trace line information from any system within your company, your suppliers, your transporters, your customers or any other third party. It enables the generation of an information database containing all the information required in tracking your products. Trace Engine allows visibility from





the raw material/batch along the supply chain to the semi-finished or finished product that is supplied to the customer. It traces the process along the supply chain through all steps, occurrences and activities.

The ability to collaborate and create an open supply chain is enhanced by using Trace Engine, so you provide true value chain traceability information for your customers, suppliers and consumers.

Trace Engine becomes the center of your overall recall. It speeds up and simplifies the recall process reducing the impact and the cost of such events. Being proactive can minimize recall media coverage by enabling you to react quickly and efficiently to a situation.

Trace Engine also becomes the center of your quality control process. You can manage enterprise quality initiatives through visualization and monitoring capabilities. Trace Engine establishes a repository for data never before available for analysis. This is accomplished with techniques such as data mining for patterns and associations between events, which can enable prediction of future values of variables, find new associations between events or classify data into clusters of related values. This information can enable you to analyze quality characteristics that can help you improve your products. Trace Engine provides a basis for continuous improvement within your supply chain or enterprise.

## How do You Benefit

### Management

- Improves customer trust providing a higher level of customer service and satisfaction by providing more consistent quality products;
- Lowers risk by providing proactive alerts;
- Traces quality data such as routines and processes so you get a visual overview of areas that need more focus or have to change;
- Provides transparency to business processes, increasing employee and management confidence;
- Potential reduction in insurance fees.

### Food Safety and Quality Management

- Provides a flexible system to track forwards and backwards in the value chain as far as you wish and have data to trace. Some customers even include the farming step;
- A central location for your recall process as all the information you need is in one place;
- Provides a structured way to keep the company's food safety and quality data for day-to-day operations;
- Satisfies current traceability legislation and is flexible to allow for continuing changes for legislation and regulation;
- Provides a focus on your critical points by measuring them and visualizing them. The combination between tracking and tracing data with quality data is quite unique;
- Enables you to work with limited trace data to analyze cause and effect, helping to improve quality efforts;

- Provides a visual picture of how your processes are functioning, so you can easily see if the routines and procedures in place were followed or not for a specific batch or product;
- Heavily reduces preparation time for audits, from days to minutes. Auditing can happen without involving staff time, improving customer service.

## Marketing and Communications

- Provides your enterprise with the ability to offer customers, suppliers, end consumers and governments access to real time traceability information on the products they buy. For example, a customer could get secure access to Trace Engine and see the trace line for their particular orders;
- Provides competitive advantages in contract negotiations and new market entry requirements;
- Part of a company's corporate social responsibility initiatives for food and beverage companies. You can create transparency and trust with your markets.

## Your Traceability Questions Answered

### Does Trace Engine comply with current tracing regulations?

Trace Engine helps your organization follow the tracing practices required by organizations such as the EU, the FDA and the ISO. Today there are no global trace regulations but there are many regional regulations, such as:

- EU regulation no. 178/2002, which states: "The traceability of food, feed, food-producing animals, and any other substance intended to be, or expected to be, incorporated into a food or feed shall be established at all stages of production, processing and distribution."
- ISO regulation no. 8402, which states: "Ability to trace the history, application or location of an entity by means of recorded identifications."
- The U.S. government's Bioterrorism Act of 2002, partly enforced by the FDA, which states: "Persons that manufacture, process, pack, transport, distribute, receive, hold, or import food will be required to create and maintain records that FDA determines are necessary to identify the immediate previous sources and the immediate subsequent recipients of food (i.e., where it came from and who received it)."

### How does Trace Engine ensure the trace line is always correct?

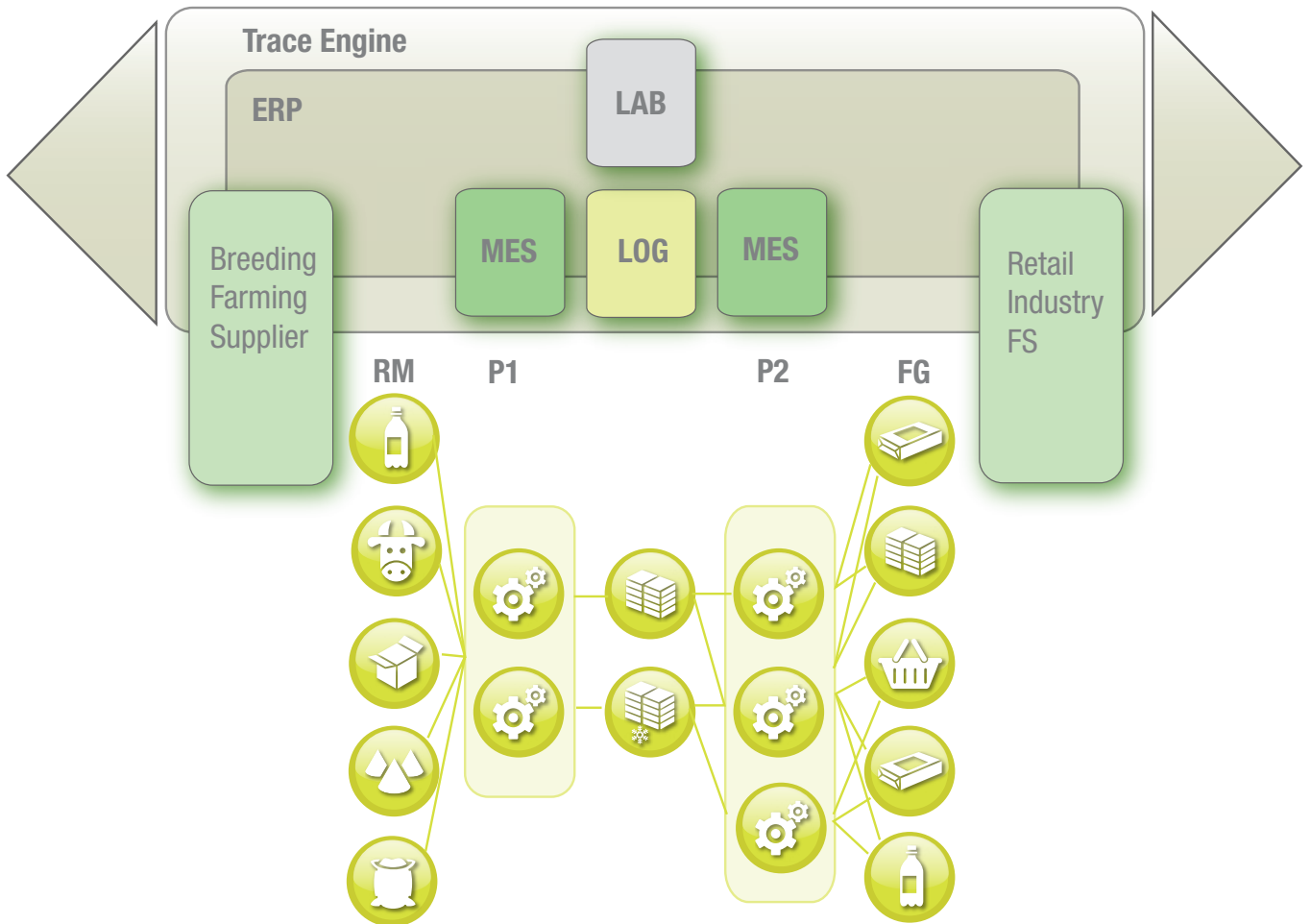
Trace Engine has been developed to ensure that all transactions entering the engine are valid both in terms of data content and trace line content. When creating and configuring a transaction type in the software, basic data layout and content checks are described. When the engine receives such a transaction, any errors found will hold the transaction in an error/exception queue and an e-mail message will be sent to the responsible party. The second phase of validation, checks for trace line validity ensuring that the transaction has the correct parent(s) within the database. If it does not, the transaction is held in an exception queue and the responsible party is informed.

### Can Trace Engine include events that are not attached directly to batches or lots?

Trace Engine can handle events such as maintenance reports and temperature information, which can be attached to a site based on date and time. Trace Engine enables you to attach and analyze non-trace line information to a number of trace lines that overlap or are connected to the lots/batches from a time perspective. This means that you can include any outside effect in your trace repository for advanced investigation of trends, associations and patterns. Trace Engine provides your organization and the supply chain with more and different continuous improvement possibilities than ever before.

### Who has access to the information in Trace Engine?

Trace Engine allows you to enable any interested party to have secured access to your trace information. The system can be accessed over the internet and/or via your intranet or extranet environment. Your own personnel, suppliers, customers or any other third party can see the information. Trace Engine assists in creating a more collaborative environment, not only internally within your own organization, but also with all the stakeholders in your supply chain.



## Can Trace Engine put an end to product recalls?

Of course not. In this uncertain world, even the best of automated traceability systems will not eliminate problems caused by food contamination, outbreaks of disease or even accidental mishandling of food products. Accurate transparent traceability, however, effectively reduces risk exposure by enabling food producers to identify, isolate and correct the problem quickly and efficiently. As a result, public health is protected, consumers are reassured, and the financial impact of such incidents can be minimized.

## The Bottom Line

Achieving truly effective food tracking and tracing capability may have been impossible in the past, but that's no longer the case. With recent advances in information technology, food companies of every size can now implement Trace Engine to assist them in dealing with the challenges of doing business in the twenty-first century.

## Why Lawson? Because simpler is better.

### About Lawson

For more than a quarter of a century, Lawson (Nasdaq: LWSN) has delivered industry-specific enterprise applications focused on enhancing the business performance of our customers.

We are a market-leading, financially strong supplier of software and services to more than 4,000 customers in the manufacturing, distribution, and services industries across 40 countries. We also provide the underlying technology necessary to run these solutions flexibly and efficiently.

Our history has been guided by two goals: to provide scalable, flexible, and ready-to-use systems for a variety of users; and to simplify the deployment, maintenance, and use of our applications.

**Headquarters:****USA**

380 St. Peter Street  
St. Paul, MN 55102-1302  
Tel +1 651 767 7000  
info@lawson.com

**Regional Offices:****Americas**

Brazil, Chile, Canada,  
Mexico, Honduras,  
United States, Venezuela

**United States**

Tel +1 651 767 7000  
infous@lawson.com

**Asia**

China, Hong Kong,  
India, Indonesia, Japan,  
Korea, Malaysia,  
Philippines, Singapore,  
Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam

**Singapore**

Tel +65 6788 8769  
Fax +65 6788 8757  
infoasia@lawson.com

**Australia & Oceania**

Australia, New Zealand

**Australia**

Tel +61 2 9468 8900  
Fax +61 2 9468 9199  
infoanz@lawson.com

**Northern Europe**

Denmark, Estonia, Finland,  
Norway, Sweden

**Sweden**

Tel +46 8 5552 5000  
Fax +46 8 5552 5999  
infonyordic@lawson.com

**Northwestern Europe**

Belgium, The Netherlands,  
Ireland, South Africa,  
United Kingdom

**United Kingdom**

Tel +44 1344 360273  
Fax +44 1344 868351  
infonyw@lawson.com

**Central Europe**

Austria, Czech Republic,  
Germany, Hungary,  
Poland, Slovakia,  
Switzerland

**Germany**

Tel +49 2103 89060  
Fax +49 2103 8906 199  
infoce@lawson.com

**Southern Europe**

France, Israel, Italy,  
Portugal, Spain

**France**

Tel +33 1 34 20 80 00  
Fax +33 1 40 39 25 07  
infosof@lawson.com

[www.lawson.com](http://www.lawson.com)

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Lawson's solutions include Enterprise Performance Management, Supply Chain Management, Enterprise Resource Planning, Customer Relationship Management, Manufacturing Resource Planning, Enterprise Asset Management and industry-tailored applications.

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