SNAPSHOT

USE OF GS1 SSCC PALLET LABELS AS AN ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM FOR SHIPPING MARKS

Project Report Reference: 2019-1004   **Date: 2 May 2023**

Project Description

This project involved controlled demonstration consignments to the US leading to the acceptance of a pilot program. This project demonstrated the concept of utilisation of palletisation and GS1 pallet labels as a method for identification for import inspection and commercial product handling through logistics. The pilot's relationship between shipping mark (pallet label), identification mark on cartons/product (carton label), and eCERT will demonstrate regulatory compliance. This includes government to government (eCERT) that generates data into the Public Health Information System (PHIS).

Project Content

The operational requirements for the pilot are summarised as:

1. Palletisation of cartons of meat into a secure and identified pallet group.
2. The pallet labelling (placard) with a SSCC for the pallet group and a SSCC for the consignment which will act as a 'shipping mark' (13 Letters/Numbers – 3 Letters acting as establishment identifier with 10 numbers preceding) for the collective group of pallets.
3. The 10 numbers identify the last 10 digits of the Message SSCC number and is unique per consignment (for the pilot consignments this will be a single shipping container).
4. The use of Meat Messaging for maintaining and generating detailed reporting, documenting all cartons GS1 GTIN serialised barcodes, pallet group SSCC and cartons and consignment (shipment) SSCC (shipping mark). The use of Meat Messaging as well as PHIS for traceback of inspected shipments.
5. The use of eCERT to include the SSCC for the consignment as the shipping mark.
6. The use of SSCCs (consignment and pallet) and meat messaging to determine the movement and confirmation of USDA FSIS Import Inspection.

Project Outcome

The project has demonstrated that the use of GS1 SSCC pallet labels and palletisation of cartons as a protocol for removing shipping marks from individual cartons. The removing of shipping marks from individual cartons has been a goal of industry for more than 20 year.

The project has achieved the demonstrated project outcomes by:
1. Testing the FSIS acceptance of a pallet label carrying the shipping mark as opposed to the cartons carrying the shipping mark.
2. Demonstrated to FSIS the ways in which the removal of a carton at the port of entry can be dealt with.
3. Running three workshops for the US importers and I-houses (Philadelphia, Houston, Long Beach).
4. Developing of a pilot protocol that is acceptable to FSIS for conducting 12 month pilot.

Benefit for Industry

Previous industry projects have calculated costs associated with the application of shipping marks, and the costs of rejections associated with missing, damaged or incorrect shipping marks. This project also noted a number of examples of damage associated with multiple handling of carton product. Based on the average industry volume of 10,000 export containers per month and a stated average of 2 cartons per container being damaged or rejected, the calculated loss including the shipping mark associated labour, is in the order of $200,000,000 loss per year to the red meat industry. The use of GS1 SSCC pallet labels and palletising of consignments has the potential to total negate these losses.

USEFUL RESOURCES

Information on the project and the GS1 system are available at:
Meat Messaging documentation https://www.meatmessaging.info/docs.asp
Pilot Protocol information https://www.meatmessaging.info/palletising.asp
Workshop presentation
https://www.meatmessaging.info/docs/Presentation_MeatMessaging_V180920.pdf
GS1 SSCC https://www.gs1.org/standards/id-keys/sscc
Meat Industry Carton Labelling
https://www.meatmessaging.info/docs/3_Carton_TechnicalFactSheetfinal.pdf