

Day 1 - 21 Sept. 2021

Afternoon

15.30-16.00

Coffee break

16.00-16.45

MODULE 3: PRINCIPLES AND COMPONENTS OF A TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY SYSTEM - TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY PRINCIPLES

Learning Objective: Deep dive into the traceability and transparency principles, components, cost allocation, incentive systems and advanced technologies

Presenter: [UNECE Project Expert](#), Virginia Cram-Martos

16.45-17.30

MODULE 4: MAKING TT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY WORK FOR SMALL ACTORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Learning Objective: Take stock of key considerations to create inclusiveness through traceability systems

Presenters

- [SDA Bocconi/UNECE Project Expert](#), Francesca Romana Rinaldi
- [ITC](#), Joseph Wozniak, Head, Trade for Sustainable Development Programme

Discussants

- [OACPS Secretariat](#), Yvonne Chileshe, Expert in Commodities & Value Chains Development
- [Uzcharmsanoat Association](#), Farkhod Nurmukhammedov, Deputy Chairman
- [Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability](#), Carole Hommey, Coordinator



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UNECE-SDA Bocconi Regional Workshop 21-23 September 2021

MODULE 3/PRINCIPLES AND COMPONENTS OF A TRACEABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY SYSTEM

SEPT 21, 16:00-16:45 CEST

Virginia Cram-Martos, CEO, Triangularity S.L.

Principles and Components of a Traceability and Transparency System

1

Overview based on the *UNECE Guidelines for Recommendation No. 46 on enhancing traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector**

- a. **The 9 traceability principles**
- b. **The 9 key traceability concepts**
- c. **Cost allocation and incentives**
- d. **Role of advanced technologies and technology selection matrix**

2

Implementing the Principles and Components - the WWF experience (Discussion)

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The 9 Traceability Principles

- **Awareness** - Of the benefits
- **Knowledge** - About: why (purpose), what (traceable asset & information), who, where and when
- **Risk-based analysis** - To maximise impact and make the best use of limited resources
- **Commitment** - Embedded into policy, legal frameworks and corporate strategies
- **Engagement** - Supports and builds cooperation and a consensus approach
- **Structured implementation** - Required for accuracy and accountability
- **Norms and standards** - Decreases future costs and increases interoperability
- **Appropriate technology** - Matching the capabilities of participants
- **Inclusiveness** - For acceptance, support and effectiveness



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Principles and Components of a Traceability and Transparency System

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The 9 Traceability System Components

	A Claim	Statement supported by data
	Traceable Asset	Product batch, trade unit, product
	Logistics Unit	Contains traceable assets for transport or storage
	Identifier (ID)	Is unique to an entity and links it to information
	Traceability Models	Organize the flow of traceable assets in a value chain
	Events	Activities where data needs to be collected
	Entry & Exit Points	The events where traceability starts & ends
	Verification Criteria	Define scope & parameters of verification
	Verification Process	Confirmation of a claim via evidence



A Claim



High-level statement about :

- a characteristic of a product (asset)
- a process
- an organization associated with that asset

In order to show that the characteristic is true, it is necessary to trace the asset as it moves through the value chain



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Traceable Asset



Can be defined at different levels of granularity

For example

- **Individually** (for example, a single garment or purse)
- **In batches** from raw material production or manufacturing processes (for example a bale of cotton, one machine load of dyed fabric, all the products produced by one machine during a specified period, etc.)
- **In trade units**, which are quantities used for buying and selling (for example a package of shirts or a container-load of thread)



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Traceable Asset

In textile and leather value chains, assets need to be traced across major transformation stages



- Fiber cultivation and harvest / livestock raising and slaughter
- Thread production / leather tanning
- Fabric weaving / leather finishing
- Clothing / footwear production
- Transport and storage where they can be aggregated or disaggregated (into trade or logistic units)
- Retailing
- Consumer use and end of life

At each transformation stage different traceable assets need to be defined



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Traceable Asset



Unique IDs will be discussed in more detail under “Identifiers”

Traceable assets that are inputs and traceable assets that are outputs need to be clearly defined and linked

- **Traceability is maintained from the farm/factory to the final product through a “chain” of unique IDs.** In other words, the output from each transformation process should be given a unique ID which is linked to the ID(s) of its input(s).

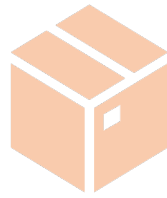


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Logistics Unit



Logistics units contain traceable assets for transport and/or storage

- Most often they contain **aggregated traceable assets** (for example, multiple fabric rolls in a container)
- But they may also contain **disaggregated traceable assets** (for example, one batch of thread spindles packaged into multiple logistics units (such as pallets))
- Logistics units are given IDs in order to follow the traceable assets they contain



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Identifier (ID)



- IDs are required for all the entities (i.e. traceable assets, enterprises, locations, logistics units) and processes that information is collected about
- Whenever possible, IDs should be based on open, non-proprietary standards in order to support interoperability



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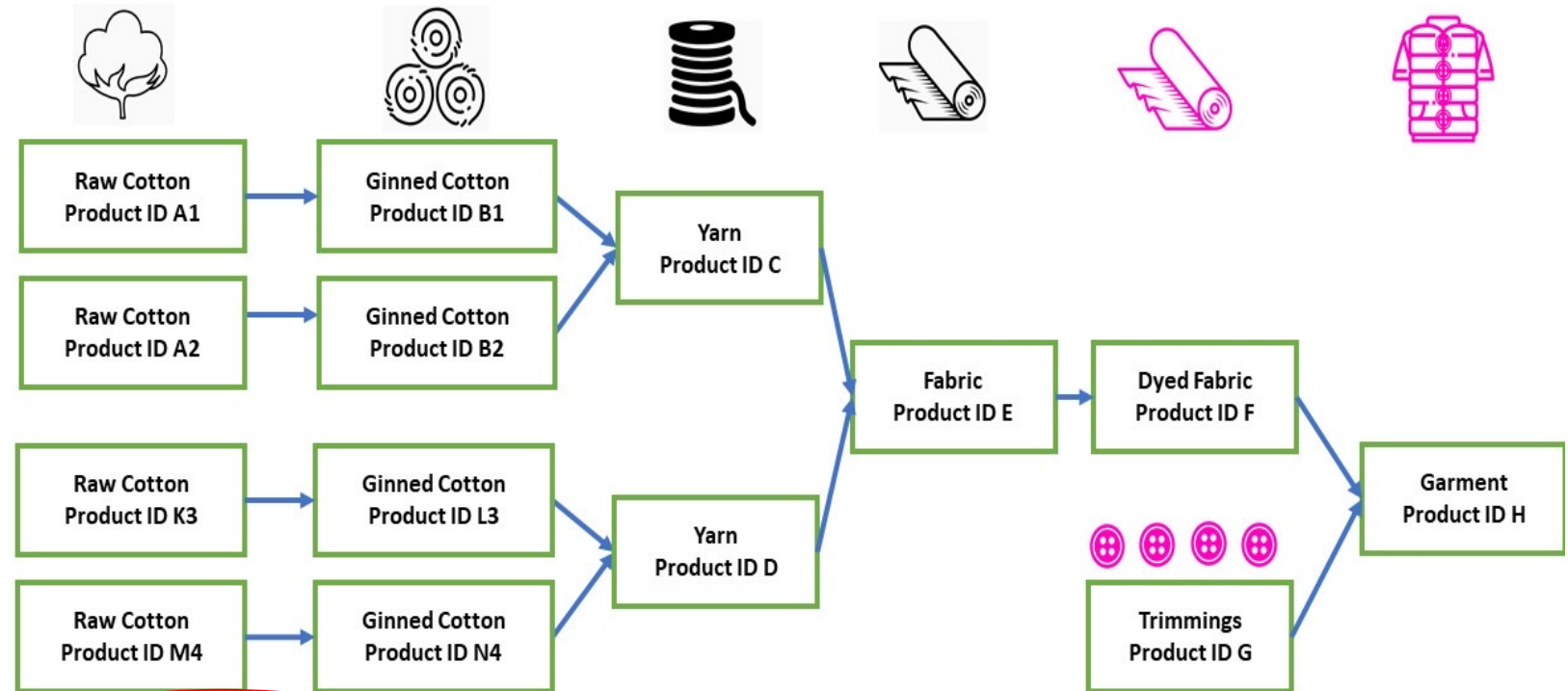
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Identifier (ID)

**IDs form the “chain”
that links material
flows
across a supply
chain in order to
create traceability**



Tracing back IDs to the Raw Cotton:
H-F-E-C-B1-A1 or H-F-E-C-B2-A2
H-F-E-D-L3-K3 or H-F-E-D-N4-M4



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Identifier (ID)

- **Unique Identifiers Create Traceability**
- **And are the Doors to Further Process and Product Information**



Examples of IDs	Type of ID
United Nations Location Code (UN/LOCODE)	Location
Global Legal Entity Identifier (LEI)	Organization
Open Apparel Registry ID (OAR ID)	Facility
Global Trade Item Number (GTIN)	Product
National tax IDs for companies	Organization



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Identifier (ID)

Challenges for Ids



- How to attach a unique ID to an output so that you are sure it will travel with the product?
- How to capture the IDs so they are properly linked?
- How to prevent the use of fraudulent IDs?

All at a minimal cost

Remembering that small cost increases up-stream result in much larger increases downstream as each participant add a % markup to the price



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Traceability Models



- A “Traceability model” is the organization of a value chain in order to ensure that traceability can be implemented.
- The usefulness of different models depends upon the type of product and the claims being made.
- Examples of commonly used traceability models are
 - Product segregation
 - Mass balance, and
 - Book and claim

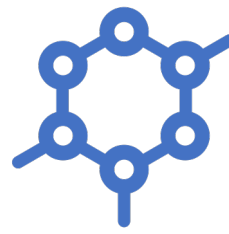


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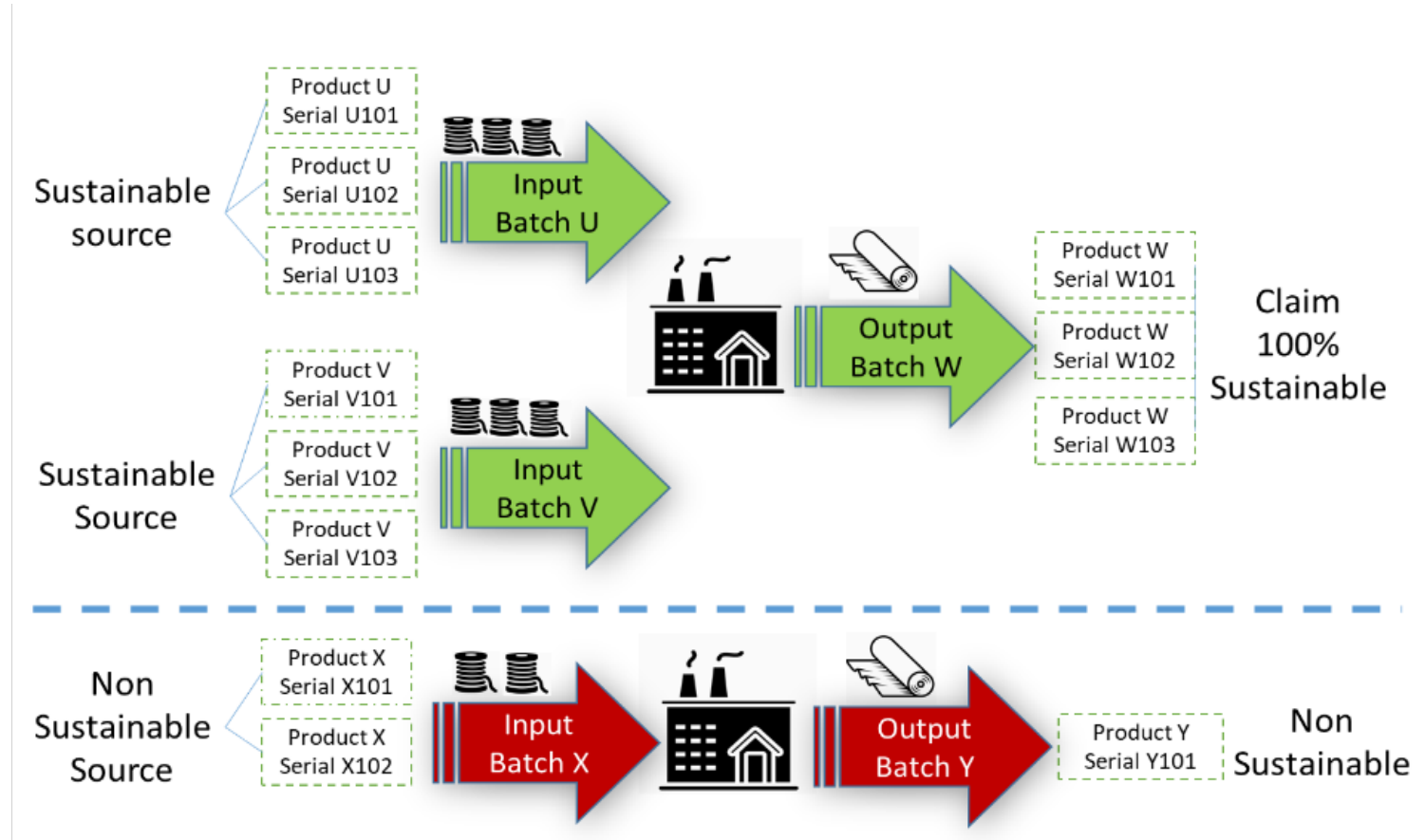
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Traceability Models

Product Segregation

There is a physical separation of certified materials and products from non-certified materials and products at each stage in the value chain





Traceability Models

Types of Product Segregation

- The **bulk commodity model** allows the mixing of certified materials from different producers
- The **identity preservation (IP) model** does not allow mixing of certified materials from different producers in the value chain

Circular or bio-based feedstocks



Fossil feedstocks



Physically segregated sustainable materials throughout the supply chain



Graphic from: <https://www.iscc-system.org/about/circular-economy/physical-segregation/>



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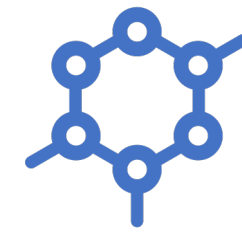
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Mass Balance

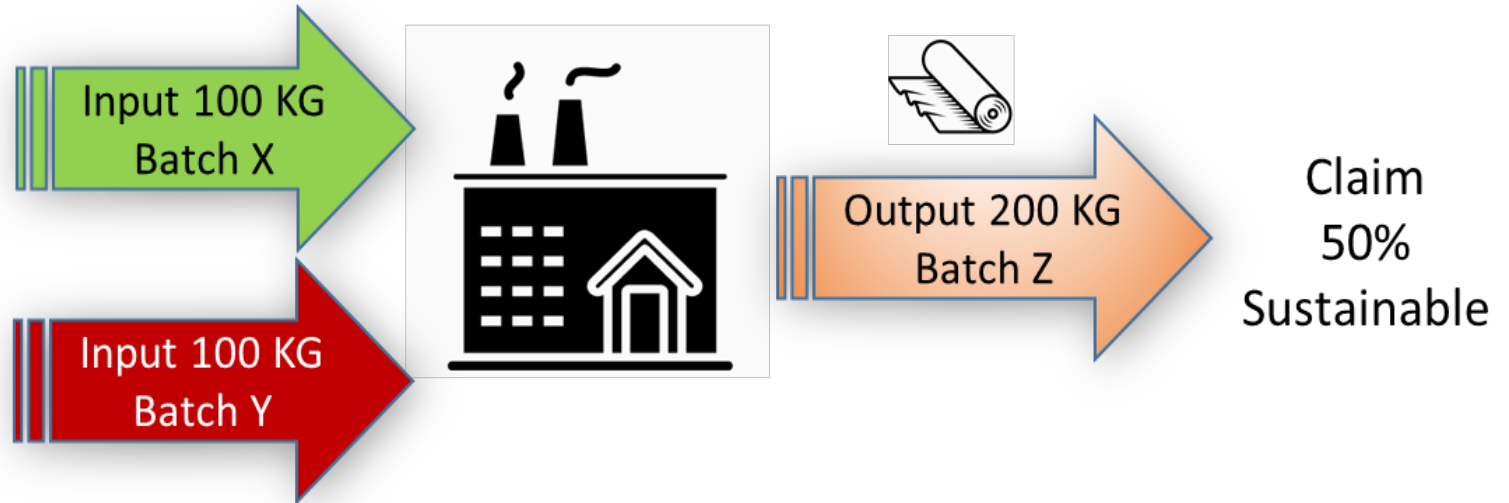
Products from both sustainable and non-sustainable sources are mixed, but an exact account is kept of the volume ratios so that the amount of sustainable content claimed is equal to the amount of sustainable products or materials used.

Sustainable
source

non
Sustainable
source



Traceability Models



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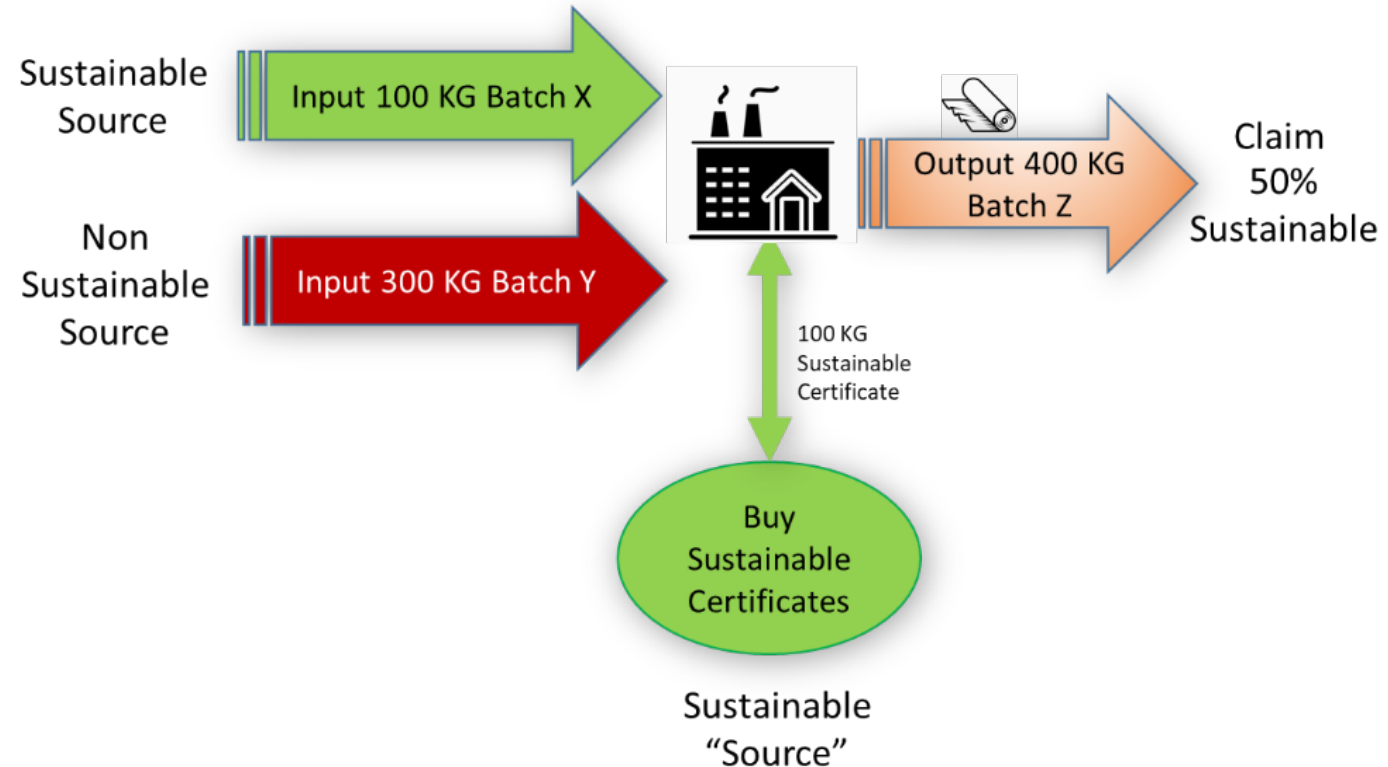
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Book and Claim



Traceability Models

- When non-sustainable and sustainable physical products or materials are mixed and sold, the right to claim sustainable sourcing is traded in the form of sustainability certificates.
- A central authority monitors claims by brands and retailers and compares these with the number of certificates issued and traded.
- The earnings from the sale of certificates is used to make payments to the producers whose goods are certified as using the good practice, thus providing an incentive for others to be certified.



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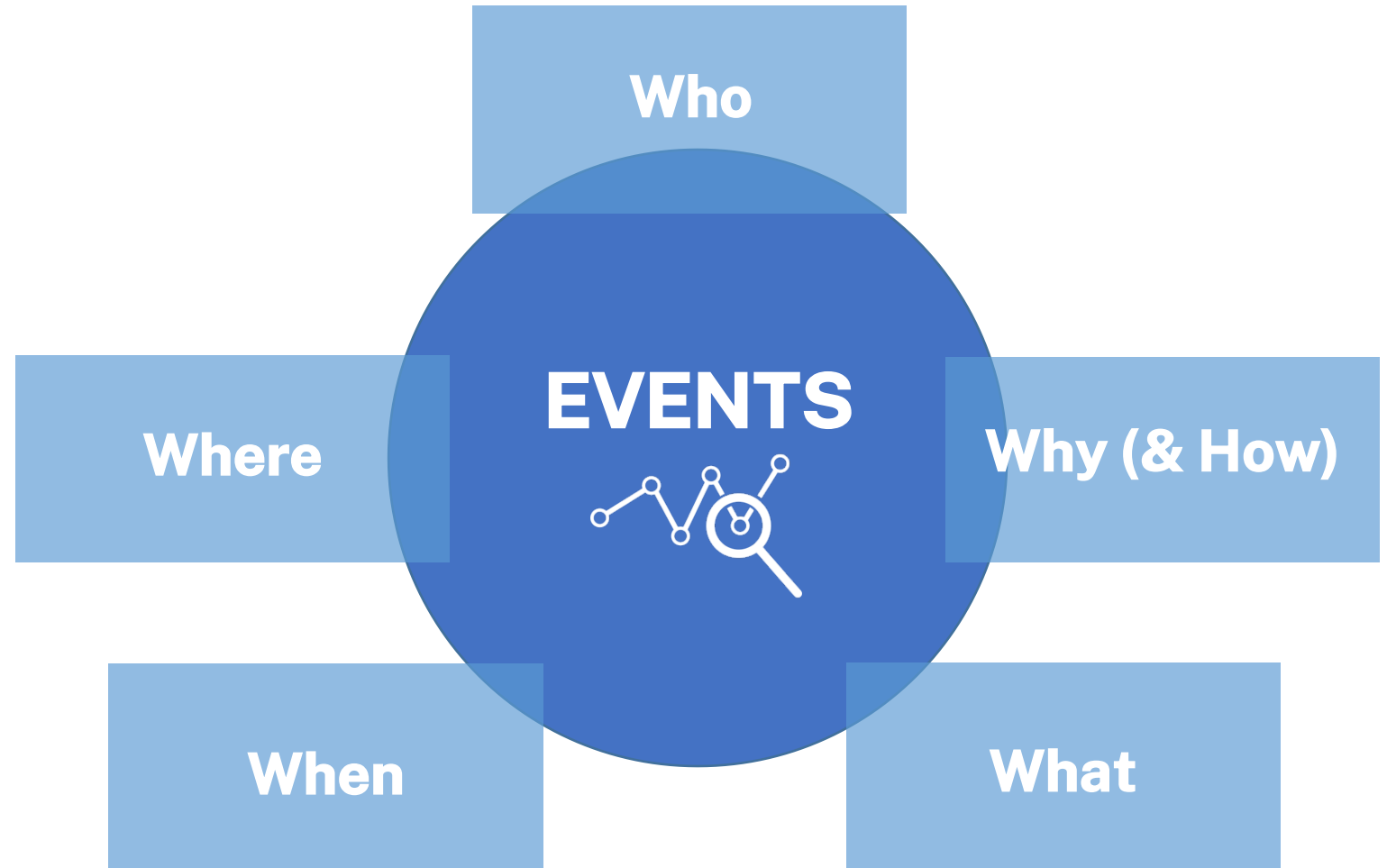
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Events

- **Traceability is Created Around Events and Their 5Ws**
- **Events are those activities where data are collected**
- Depending upon the activity/event, data collection may take place just before or just after the event, or at both times
- Traceability systems usually collect, for each event, data for the 5Ws



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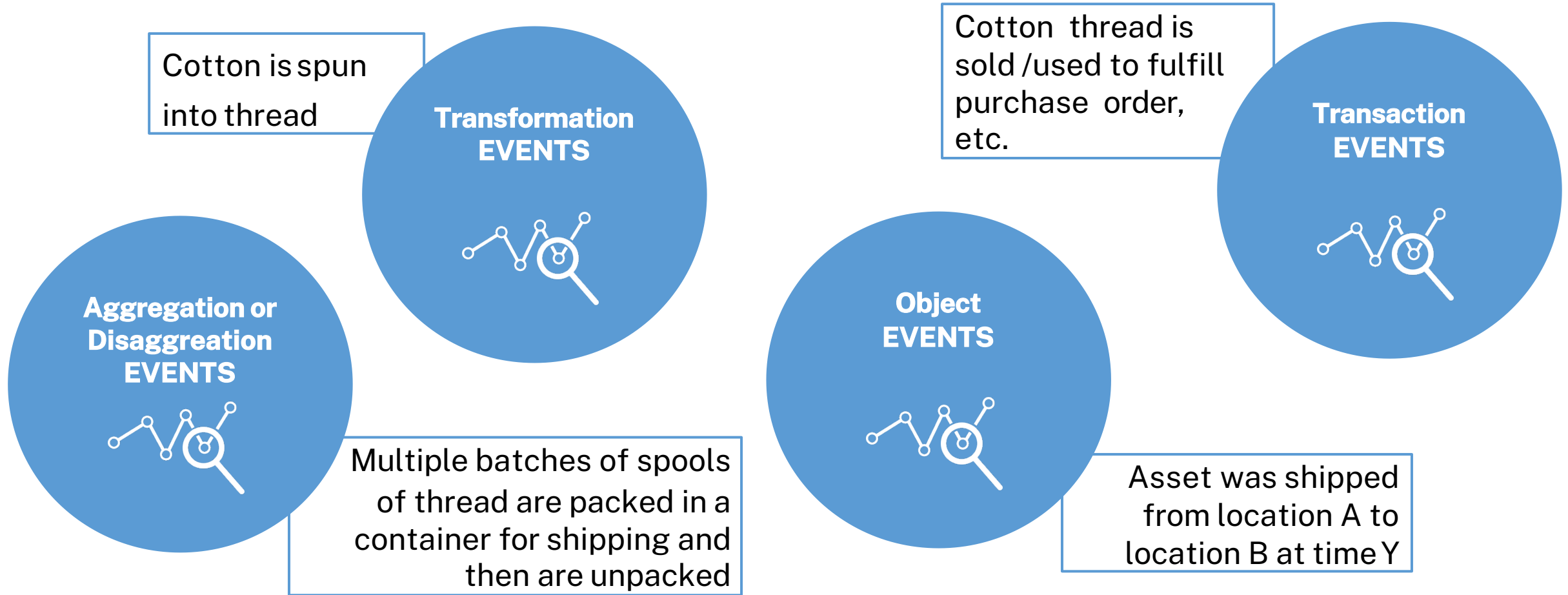
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Events

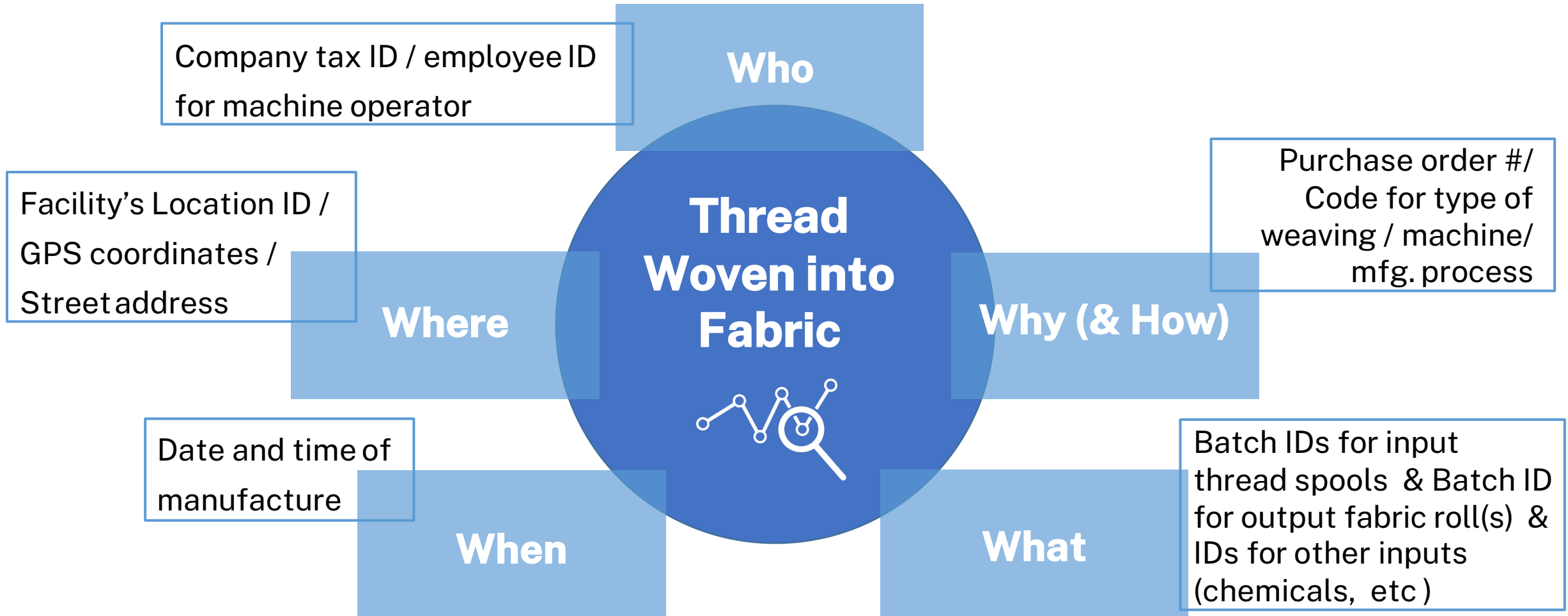
Types of Events/ Activities Inside a Process





Events

An Example of Transformation Event Data



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Events

Example of Specific Event Data

Harvesting

Why Process-Code: 01

Where 8714231140184
- Sub-Location ID
- GPS

What 8714231147345
- Batch: B42323
- Qty: 500
- Cert: A (organic),
- Cert: B (Fair Trade)

When 2020-07-08T15:00:00+1:00

Who 8714231140580

Production

Why Process-Code: 02

Where 5917271140344
- Sub-Location ID
- ProductionLine: 6

What 5917271140001
- Batch: B87261
- Piece Qty: 30
- Cert: A (organic),
- Cert: B (Fair Trade)

When 2020-07-10T11:25:00+1:00

Who 59172711701444

Transport

Why Process-Code: 03

Where 59113321130788
- Sub-Location ID
- GPS

What 591727190322
- Product: 5917271140001
- Batch: B87261
- Logistic Package Qty: 10
- Cert: A (organic),
- Cert: B (Fair Trade)

When 2020-07-12T22:15:00+1:00

Who 5931278309001

Logistic unit: 8714231190099

Harvested: 2020-07-08T15:00:00+1:00
Product: 8714231147345
Batch: B42323
Qty: 500
Cert: A (organic), Cert: B (Fair Trade)

Logistic unit: 591727190322

Prod.Date: 2020-07-10T11:25:00+1:00
Product: 5917271140001
Batch: B42323
Qty: 30
Cert: A (organic), Cert: B (Fair Trade)

Logistic unit: 687167861259172719

Shipped date: 2020-07-12T22:15:00+1:00
Log. Units: 591727190322...332 (10 boxes)
Product in log. unit: 5917271140001
Product Batch: B42323
Product Qty per Log Unit: 30
Cert: A (organic), Cert: B (Fair Trade)



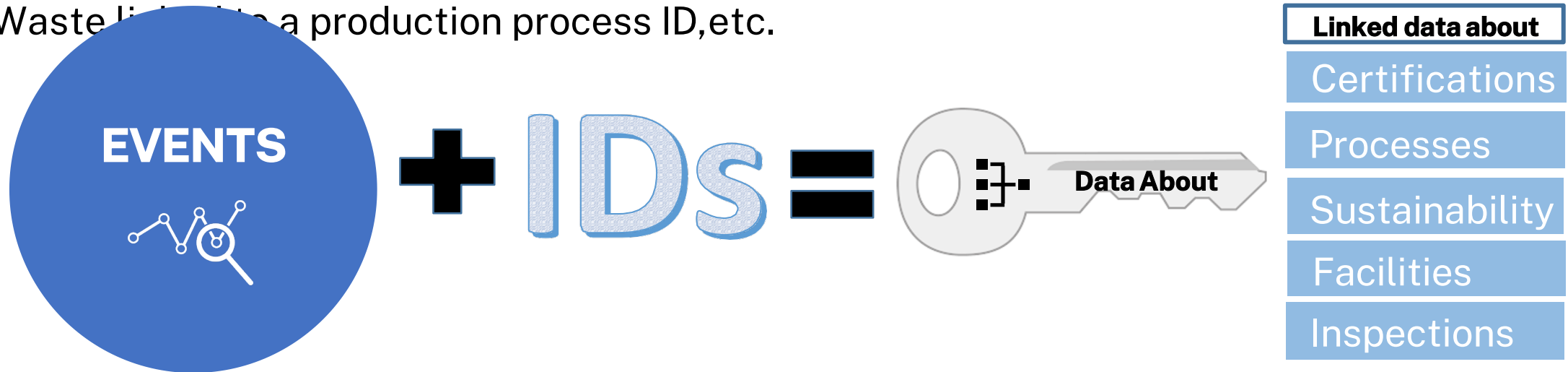


Events

So How Do Events and IDs Create Transparency?

The IDs for the 5Ws allow additional information to be saved, and requested, about them. For example:

- An organic cotton certificate linked to a cotton batch ID
- A factory audit or inspection report linked to a facility ID
- The chemical treatment of an agricultural area linked to a location ID
- Waste linked to a production process ID, etc.



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Sustainability information can be linked to EventIDs

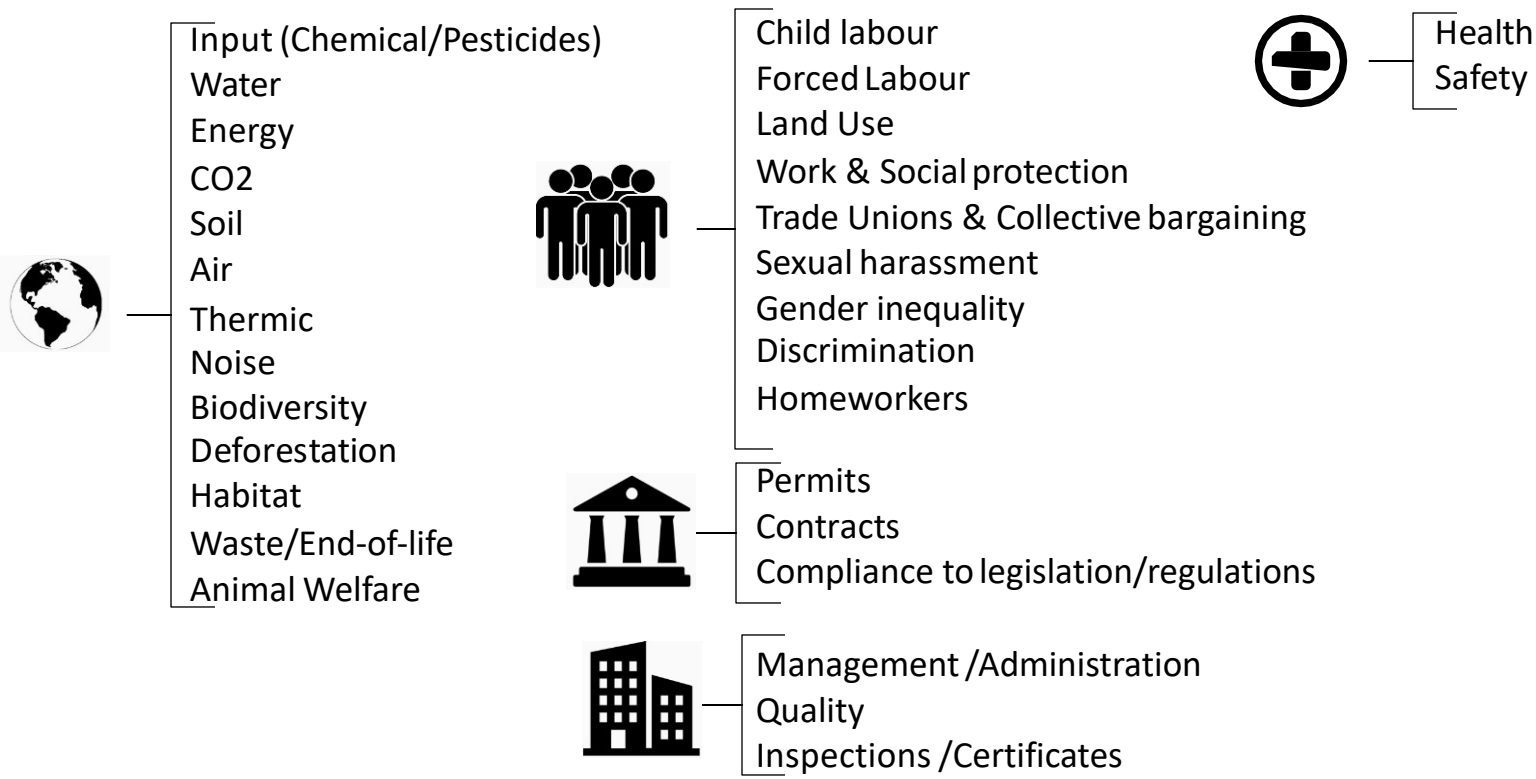
For



Events

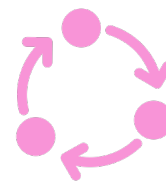
Process Product Facility

Environment Social Health



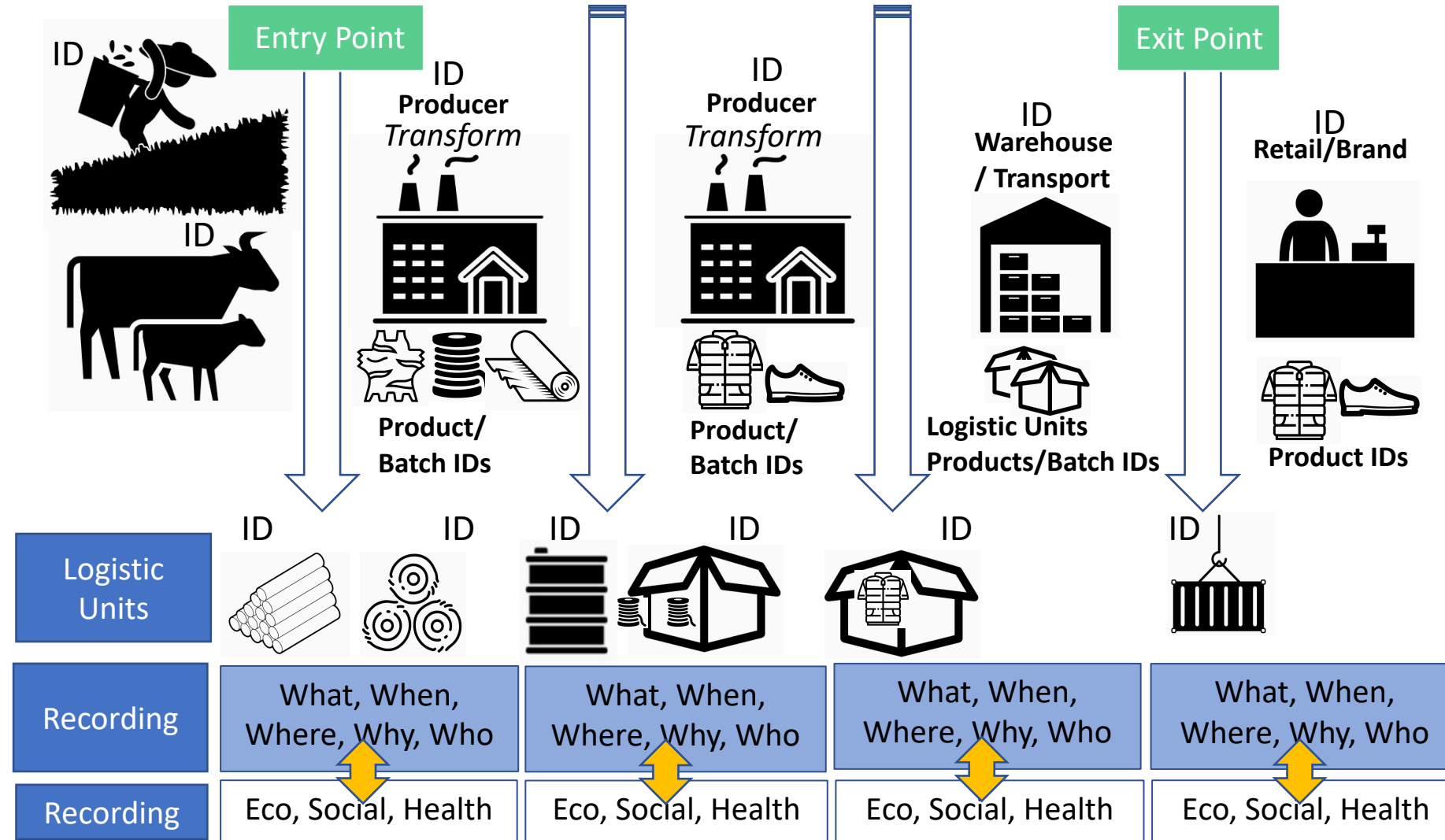
From raw material production...
...through manufacturing and branding...
...to consumption and post-consumption.

For the Beginning and End of Traceability



Entry & Exit Points

- At each of these points the traceable asset needs to meet specified criteria
- **The primary factor in deciding on entry and exit points should be what must be traced, and when, in order to support the claim.**





Verification Criteria

Are the **standards and key performance indicators** that traceable assets are supposed to meet and **the rules governing the traceability process**

✓ The criteria should include well-defined states for traceable assets at the entry and exit points

Other verification criteria may include:

✓ Defined **responsibilities** for the coordination, implementation and distribution of traceability tasks and their verification

✓ **Procedures** for organizing, recording, and reporting **product conditions** at

- Entry/exit points
- Transformation, aggregation, and disaggregation event points
- The beginning and end of shipment processes



Applicable regulatory guidelines, standards, certificates or other sustainability criteria



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Verification Process

Verification processes are carried out by auditors or other verification agencies based on Verification Criteria

To create confidence in a claim, **audits** should take place in order to confirm that the predefined rules for the traceability process have been followed, and to prove that the traceable assets comply with the defined sustainability requirements

The auditors could be from:

- The public sector,
- A ministry or government agency
- The private sector (for example an industry association or a private inspection agency)
- A public/private sector partnership (PPP) such as an inspection agency appointed by a government



Certification can play a similar role to that of independent audits (third party validation of sustainability claims) for verification. At the same time, it imposes additional administrative and organizational costs, and, when used, robust traceability and best practices should be followed



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Principles and Components of a Traceability and Transparency System

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Cost Allocation and Incentives

Cost allocation is a key factor in the uptake and implementation of a traceability and transparency system

Costs for traceability and transparency are related to

- 1) **The development** of the system including identifying and implementing a standardized dataset for information exchange among partners to ensure that shared data are interpreted consistently and correctly
- 2) The system's **ongoing implementation**, including data collection, supporting data exchange between systems, inventory management and labelling
- 3) Meeting **sustainability verification criteria** such as certifications or audits



Cost Allocation and Incentives



Criteria to consider for cost allocation include:

- How the profit margins are distributed
- The relative price of partners' outputs
- Partners' product volumes
- Partners' needs
- The allocation of benefits from the traceability system

Cost Allocation and Incentives

A key role is also played by effective and efficient systems of both public and private incentives, as well as accountability mechanisms

Financial incentives include economic and fiscal incentives, both positive and negative, by **governments**. Possible incentives of this kind include:

- **Financial support** to digital technological innovation
- **Investments** in physical and digital infrastructure
- **Direct incentives** for the development of interoperable solutions and digitalization
- **Preferential financing** loans and grants on the base of traceability and transparency criteria
- Funding of **feasibility studies and pilot projects**, particularly in value chains with many SMEs

On the other end, **industry actors** such as brands and retailers, could consider implementing **private financial incentive schemes for suppliers** of traceable fibres and materials; or suppliers with harmonized or interoperable systems; or small suppliers needing assistance to cover part of the initial implementation cost.



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Cost Allocation and Incentives

Non-financial incentives are complementary to financial ones

On the **government** side, they can include:

- Measures to **facilitate market access**
- **Fast-track processes** and **expedited customs clearance** for products with higher traceability and transparency
- Specialized managerial and workforce **training**
- The development and nurturing of **open-source and open-licence tools and data**
- **Traceability and transparency criteria** for green and socially responsible public procurement
- **Cradle to cradle criteria** as part of an overall policy for waste management supported by government procurement
- **Public visibility**, both positive and negative

Industry actors could encourage participation through **user-friendly interface designs** for data entry apps (to make it as simple as possible) and through **free training for SMEs** in their value chains.

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Supporting Role of Advanced Technologies



Technology can be a key element in:

- Managing risk
- Improving compliance
- Increasing speed and efficiency
- Providing universal access to data
- Creating incentives through secondary benefits



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Supporting Role of Advanced Technologies

Some advanced technologies that can support traceability and transparency

Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning systems

Blockchain technology

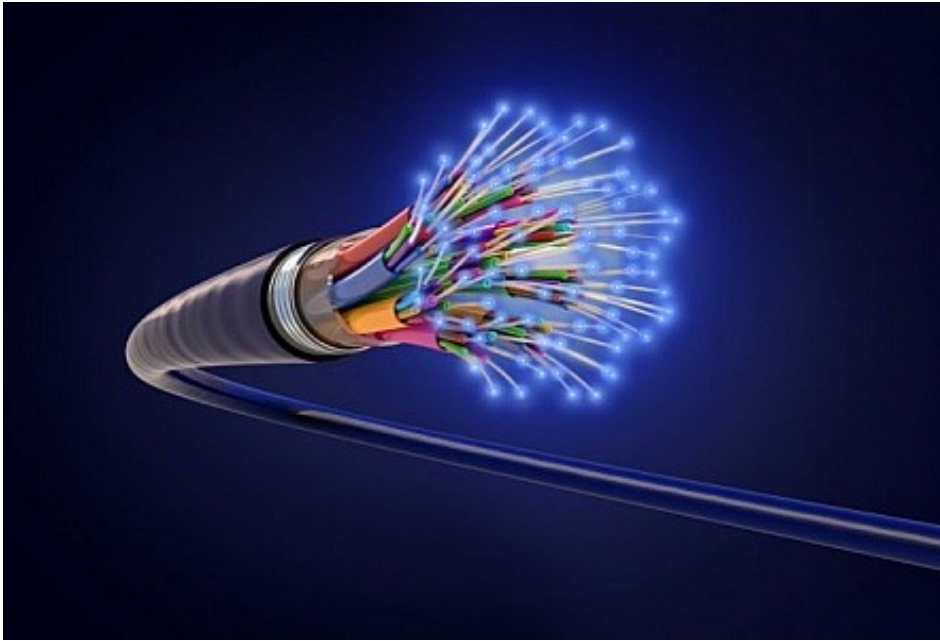
Internet cloud services

Distributed databases and data pipelines

Internet of Things (IoT)

Advanced product labelling:

- Quick response (QR) codes
 - Physical tracer technologies
 - Radio frequency IDs (RFID)
 - Near-field communications (NFC) labels
-



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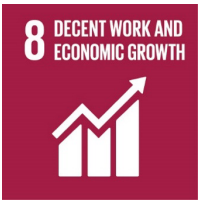
Supporting Role of Advanced Technologies

Challenges

- Implementing with small and vulnerable partners – so as to close the technology gap
- Ensuring data quality and handling exceptions
- Cost and access
- Data quality and system reliability
- Engagement and participation



FOR MORE DETAILS – See Part II of the Recommendation 46 Document*



A. Introduction

- **Purpose:** Practical guidance on the development of traceability systems To Support Claims and Regulatory Compliance For Sustainable and Circular Garment and Footwear Value Chains
- **Target audience:** High Level Government and Private Sector Managers with implementation responsibility

B. Traceability principles

- **9 Principles:** Awareness, Knowledge, Risk-based Analysis, Commitment, Engagement, Structured implementation, Norms & Standards, Appropriate technology, Inclusiveness

C. Key traceability systems concepts

- Claims
- Traceable Assets
- Logistics Units
- Unique Identifiers (IDs)
- Entry & Exit Points
- Traceability models
- Verification criteria
- Verification processes

D. Cost allocation & incentive systems

- **Costs related to traceability and transparency:** e.g. costs for development of the system; data collection and exchange, certification, inspections, audits, etc.
- **Type of incentives:** financial and non-financial, public vs private
- **Criteria of cost structure for value-chain partners**

E. Supporting role of advanced technologies

- **Opportunities and challenges**
- **Type of supporting technologies:** e.g. AI, IOT, Blockchain, Internet Cloud Services, Advanced product labelling (QR, RFID, DNA markers, NFC labels)
- **Criteria for their selection and impact**

F. Creating inclusiveness in traceability systems

- The digital divide
- Gender considerations
- Small- and medium-sized enterprises
- Integrating Developing Countries

UNECE-UN/CEFACT "Enhancing Transparency and Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear"

UNECE Policy Recommendation on Transparency and Traceability for Sustainable Value Chains in Garment and Footwear

II. Guidelines for Recommendation n°46 on enhancing transparency and traceability for sustainable garment and footwear value chains

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Principles and Components of a Traceability and Transparency System

1

Overview based on the *UNECE Guidelines for Recommendation No. 46 on enhancing traceability and transparency of sustainable value chains in the garment and footwear sector**

- a. The 9 traceability principles
- b. The 9 key traceability concepts
- c. Cost allocation and incentives
- d. Role of advanced technologies and technology selection matrix

2

Implementing the Principles and Components - the WWF experience (Discussion)

* Document ECE/TRADE/C/CEFACT/2021/10



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circularity in the garment and footwear sector

Implementing the Principles and Components

Time for discussion, questions and experience sharing



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UNECE-SDA Bocconi Regional Workshop 21-23 September 2021



**THANK YOU
JOIN THE SUSTAINABILITY PLEDGE**

thesustainabilitypledge.org

Virginia Cram-Martos,
CEO, Triangularity S.L

16.45-17.30

MODULE 4: MAKING TT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CIRCULARITY WORK FOR SMALL ACTORS AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Learning Objective: Take stock of key considerations to create inclusiveness through traceability systems

Presenters

- [SDA Bocconi/UNECE Project Expert](#), Francesca Romana Rinaldi
- [ITC](#), Joseph Wozniak, Head, Trade for Sustainable Development Programme

Discussants

- [OACPS Secretariat](#), Yvonne Chileshe, Expert in Commodities & Value Chains Development
- [Uzcharmsanoat Association](#), Farkhod Nurmukhammedov, Deputy Chairman
- [Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability](#), Carole Hommey, Coordinator