

MSC Critical Tracking Event/ Key Data Element (CTE/KDE) Matrix

Table 1 CTE/KDE matrix

Key Data Element (KDE)	Critical Tracking Event (CTE)						
	<u>Additional for first buyers</u>			Processing Events	Shipping & Receiving Events	Aggregate & Disaggregation Events	Decommission Events
	Fishing Event	Transshipment Events	Landing Events				
Event Date	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Location Identifier	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quantity Unit of Measure	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Quantity Value	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Species	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Species Code	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MSC Fishery Certificate Code	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Vessel Flag	X	X					
Vessel Name	X	X					
Vessel Identifier	X	X					
Gear Type	X						
Fishing License/Permit No.	X						
Transshipment Authorization		X					
Landing Authorization Identifier			X				

Key Data Element (KDE)	Critical Tracking Event (CTE)						
	<u>Additional for first buyers</u>			Processing Events	Shipping & Receiving Events	Aggregate & Disaggregation Events	Decommission Events
	Fishing Event	Transshipment Events	Landing Events				
Serial Number				X	X	X	X
Short Description				X	X	X	X
Event Identifier				X	X	X	X
Lot Number				X	X	X	X
Product Form				X	X	X	X
MSC Chain of Custody Certificate code				X	X	X	X
Product Identifier				X	X		X
Buyer Identifier					X		
Seller Identifier					X		
Customer Type					X		
Destination Location Identifier					X		
Source Location Identifier					X		
Transaction Identifier					X		
Child Product Identifier						X	
Parent Product Identifier						X	

Definitions and Glossary

Event-based traceability (conceptual definition for background only):

- **Definition:** A method for tracking a product's journey by recording specific activities (events) as they happen, rather than relying solely on static transaction records. It is the overarching framework that connects all your CTEs and KDEs. Event-based traceability creates a continuous timeline of the movement and transformation of a product. It links the *actions* (CTEs) and the *details* (KDEs) so you can see the complete history of a seafood product.

The next 3 definitions will sit in the [MSC-MSCI Vocabulary document](#)

Critical Tracking Events (CTEs)

- **Definition:** Specific steps within the operations of an organisation where data associated with the product must be recorded to ensure traceability. CTEs typically occur whenever a product is transferred or undergoes transformation (e.g. filleting or packing).

Key Data Elements (KDEs)

- **Definition:** Specific information that must be recorded at each applicable CTE to identify the product and event, link each step in the product flow, and ensure traceability.

Identifier

- **Definition:** A unique, structured reference code assigned to an entity, object, location, or transaction that enables it to be precisely distinguished from all others within a supply chain or within the internal operations and ownership of a certified organization, ensuring it can be verified during an audit.

Definitions: Critical Tracking Events (CTEs)

Table 2 - Proposed definitions for each Critical tracking event associated with the MSC Chain of Custody Standard.

Critical Tracking Event (CTE)	MSC Proposed Definition
Aggregate	The operation of combining one or more individual trade units, cases, or child identifiers into a higher-level logistic unit or container under a parent identifier (e.g., loading boxes onto a pallet or packing units into a master carton) without altering the physical form of the product.
Decommission	The removal or destruction of product from inventory, for any reason, so that it is no longer available for sale or further processing.
Disaggregate	The operation of separating or unpacking child identifiers from a higher-level logistic unit or parent identifier (e.g., breaking down a pallet into individual cases or opening a master carton) without altering the physical form of the product.
Fishing	The physical act of taking marine animals from a water body during a fishing or harvesting event. Also commonly referred to as a catch event.
Landing	The first transfer of fish or seafood from a vessel to land.
Processing	A processing step wherein the physical product or packaging is permanently altered in some way. This includes on-vessel processing.
Receiving	Indicates that seafood of any form is being received at a location and added to the receiver's inventory.
Shipping	Indicates that seafood of any form is being transferred or shipped from a location and removed from the inventory of said location. Shipping could include a change of ownership.
Transshipment	The operation of moving products from one vessel to another prior to offloading onto land.

Definitions: Key Data Elements (KDEs)

Table 3 - Proposed definitions for each Key Data Element (KDE) associated with the MSC Chain of Custody Standard

Key Data Element (KDE)	Definition	Examples	First buyer requirement
Buyer identifier	A unique code or legal business identifier for the company acquiring commercial ownership of the product. Serves as the purchasing buyer during <i>Shipping Events</i> and the receiving entity identifier during <i>Receiving Events</i> .	TAX-ID-9928134, DUNS-123456789	
Child Product identifier	The unique lot number, product identifier, or serial number assigned to an individual item, case, or unit that is combined into or separated from a parent unit during an aggregation or disaggregation event.	LOT-CHLD-2026-001, SKU-TUNA-LOIN-50	
Customer Type	The functional supply chain role of the entity buying or receiving the product (e.g., primary processor, distributor, wholesaler, retailer). Captures the supply chain tier during Shipping & Receiving Events.	Processor, Distributor	
Destination Location identifier	A unique identifier for the physical site, warehouse, or port scheduled to receive the product, representing the destination facility or port during Shipping Events.	UN/LOCODE: USLAX, GLN: 0812345000015	
Event date	The date when the event occurred or started (if spanning multiple days), establishing the chronological anchor for the traceback timeline. Event date is dynamic depending on the CTE; representing 'catch date' during Fishing Events, 'date of landing' during Landing Events, 'date of transfer' during Transshipment Events, and 'dispatch' or 'receipt date' during Shipping or Receiving Events.	2026-08-03, 15/05/2025	
Event identifier	A unique reference code created to identify a specific supply chain event, ensuring it can be linked and audited without confusion during a traceability test. Links related activities across Processing, Shipping, Receiving, and Aggregation Events for audit verification.	EVT-20260803-0042, TR-884932-LAND	
Fishing License/permit no.	The official permit or license number authorizing the vessel or operator to conduct fishing operations in a specific fishery or zone.	PERMIT-NC-2025-883, FL-994820	Yes
Gear Type	The tool with which living aquatic resources are captured. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Department, FAO, 2014 (www.fao.org/fishery/topic/1617/en).	Purse Seine, Pelagic Longline	Yes

Key Data Element (KDE)	Definition	Examples	First buyer requirement
Landing Authorization identifier	The official permit or reference number granting authorization to offload catch at a designated port or landing site.	LND-PORT-00492, PORT-AUTH-8831	Yes
Location identifier	A unique code, address, port name, or geographic coordinate (e.g., GPS or FAO area) identifying where the event physically took place. Location identifiers are dynamic depending on the CTE, representing catch zone for Fishing Events, port of offloading for Landing Events, at-sea transfer location for Transshipment Events, and facility location for Processing, Storage, and Shipping Events.	Lat: -0.4500, Long: 117.1500, UN/LOCODE: IDJKT	
Lot Number	A unique reference code assigned by an organization to group a discrete quantity of product harvested, received, processed, or packaged under uniform conditions, enabling product linking across supply chain events, essential for linking finished goods back to shared raw materials.	LOT-20260801-YFT-01, BATCH-9942A	
MSC Chain of Custody Certificate identifier	The unique certificate number verifying that a supply chain company is certified to handle and sell MSC-certified products.	MSC-C-54321, MSC-C-987654	
MSC Fishery Certificate Code	The unique code identifying a wild fishery certified as sustainable under Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) standards.	MSC-F-31234, MSC-F-60012	
Parent Product identifier	The unique container, pallet, or master unit identifier (e.g., SSCC or master case code) that encapsulates or binds one or more child products during an aggregation or disaggregation event.	LOT-PRNT-2026-088, CATCH-LOT-YFT-09	
Product Form	The physical presentation or processing state of the seafood at the time of the event (e.g., live, whole, gutted, skinless fillet, canned) to track the physical state transformations across Processing, Shipping & Receiving, and Aggregation Events.	Skinless Boneless Fillet, H&G (Headed & Gutted)	
Product identifier	The specific item number, SKU, or code used to identify the type of product being tracked.	SKU-88392, GTIN-00812345000123	
Quantity Unit of Measure	The standard unit used to record product weight, volume, or count (e.g., kg, metric tons, lbs, cases).	KG, MT (Metric Tons)	

Key Data Element (KDE)	Definition	Examples	First buyer requirement
Quantity Value	The exact numeric amount of product involved in the specific event. Quantity values are dynamic depending on the CTE and appropriate to the associated product form, lot, and unit of measure (e.g., harvest weight for Fishing, landed weight for Landing, process yield for Processing, or dispatched weight for Shipping).	2500.50, 120	
Seller identifier	A unique code, legal business identifier, or standardised reference identifying the company transferring commercial ownership of the product, either as a global identifier (e.g. GLN, LEI) or an internal vendor code, provided it uniquely identifies the supplier.	LEI-54930039281, REG-ID-44921	
Serial Number	A unique identifier assigned to an individual item, case, or container to enable piece-level tracking.	SN-9948201, SSCC-00394820102938	
Short Description	A clear, plain-language description of the product (e.g., "Frozen Yellowfin Tuna Loins") used for rapid identification during audits and traceability exercises.	Frozen Yellowfin Tuna Loin, Fresh Atlantic Salmon Gutted	
Source Location identifier	A unique identifier for the physical site, facility, farm, harvest zone, or port from which the product was dispatched during Shipping and Receiving Events.	FAO Area 71, FACILITY-ECU-004	
Species	The formal scientific (Latin binomial) name of the seafood (e.g., Thunnus albacares).	Thunnus albacares, Salmo salar	
Species Code	The internationally recognized standard 3-letter FAO ASFIS code representing the species.	YFT (Yellowfin Tuna), SAL (Atlantic Salmon)	
Transaction Identifier	Identifier of the business transaction linking shipment by seller to receipt by buyer (e.g., Bill of Lading, DESADV).	SHIP-20260826-001245 DESADV-20260826-001245 BL-ABC123456	
Transshipment Authorization identifier or name	The official permit reference number or issuing authority approving the transfer of catch between vessels at sea.	AUTH-TS-2026-09, WCPFC Transshipment Permit #44	Yes
Vessel Flag	The country under whose flag the fishing or transport vessel is officially registered.	Ecuador, Norway	Yes
Vessel identifier	A permanent, unique identifier assigned to the vessel by a recognized authority (e.g., IMO number, national registry identifier, or UVI).	IMO 9123456, UVI-123456789	Yes

Key Data Element (KDE)	Definition	Examples	First buyer requirement
Vessel Name	The official registered name of the vessel performing the harvesting or transshipment activity.	F/V Pacific Star, M/V Ocean Wave	Yes