If you can't map it, you can't manage it

Accelerating trends of supply chain globalisation and outsourced manufacturing and distribution have combined to increase the pace of change, complexity, and risk for brand owners. These trends have created a fundamental shift in the way companies of all sizes plan, source, make, and deliver their goods and services. Knowledge is power and collaboration is they key.

A supply chain is only as strong as its weakest link

When one part of the supply chain is disrupted, the effects can lead to issues throughout your entire supply chain network.

Enabling integration with supply chain partners, and then facilitating real-time visibility and collaboration capabilities, should be your first objectives. The ability to see, collaborate and resolve disruptions as they occur in your network is what defines a risk-resistant supply chain.

Vulnerability Assessments

The aim of the requirements for vulnerability assessments is for sites to assess where their raw materials and supply chain could be vulnerable to food fraud activities, so that appropriate controls can then be put in place to minimise the risk.

These requirements are similar to some of the basic principles of TACCP (Threat Analysis and Critical Control Point) taken from PAS 96:2010, which provides a framework to control the developing problems of malicious attack and comprise of integrity in food supply chains.

The emphasis of the new requirements in BRC, and of TACCP, are focussed firmly on the vulnerability of your supply chain. Vulnerability is the ability of your supply chain to be harmed by potential threats, present now and crucially, in the future. This is in contrast to the HACCP approach which identifies current hazards (biological, chemical and physical which could cause an adverse health effect) and introduces controls to minimise risk. In this context, assessing vulnerability allows you to forecast for future problems and introduce controls to ensure your supply chain is more resilient going forward.

As well as assessing the vulnerability of the supply chain, having a comprehensive understanding of the practices of your suppliers, the relevant in-country legislation, and other standards by which your suppliers are accredited can help to understand where the gaps are in current controls. Taking such

an approach can help your credibility with customers, prevent incidents or bad practice, and crucially allow you to prioritise where additional controls should be put in place and build competitive advantage in the supply chain.

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