

## **Traceability of the Palm Oil Supply Chain**

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Palm oil is usually traded, processed, and stored as a commodity. This means that there is no qualitative difference between different consignments. For costs reasons, the oil is usually transported and stored in large volumes. These volumes will always consist of deliveries from several oil mills. The definition of traceability in the European General Food Law requires identification of the immediate suppliers and receivers for each operation in the supply chain. This definition of traceability applies throughout the complete supply chain of palm products. However, traceability of the palm oil from the end user back to an individual oil mill or plantation is in general not possible, mainly due to the large scale overseas shipping of palm products. The Round table of Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) created several supply chain options to connect producers of sustainable palm oil with the end users.

- The “Book and Claim” and “Mass Balance” options do not require a physical connection between the sustainable palm oil and the sustainability claim and do not create any additional traceability.
- The “Identity Preserved” model creates additional traceability since palm products need to be traceable back to a uniquely identifiable oil mill. The small scale transport and storage generally involved in this option will lead to an important supply chain cost increase.
- The “Segregated” model ensures that RSPO certified palm products are not mixed with not certified products. This option will not bring additional traceability since the certified products will still originate from a number of certified oil mills.