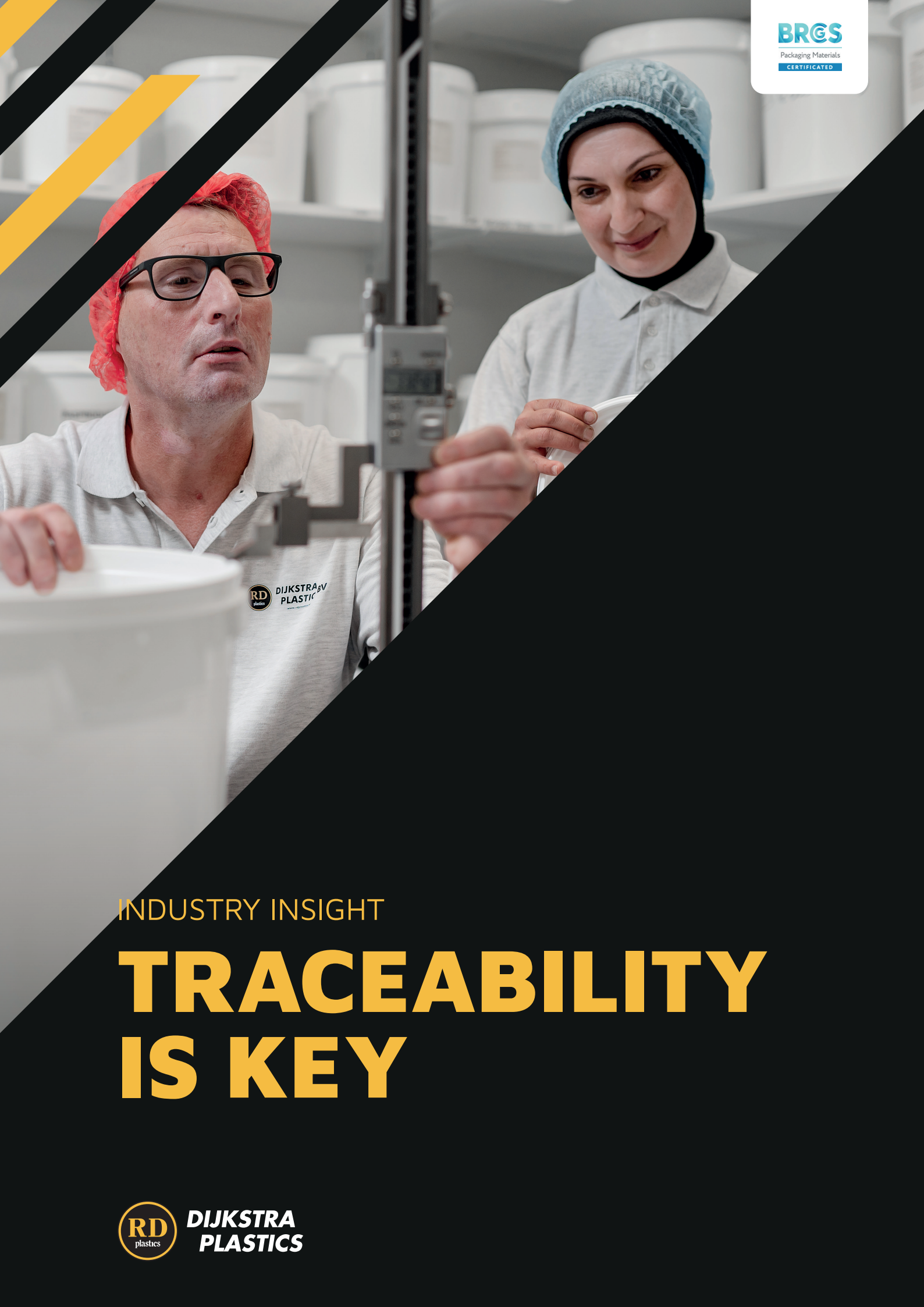




INDUSTRY INSIGHT

TRACEABILITY IS KEY



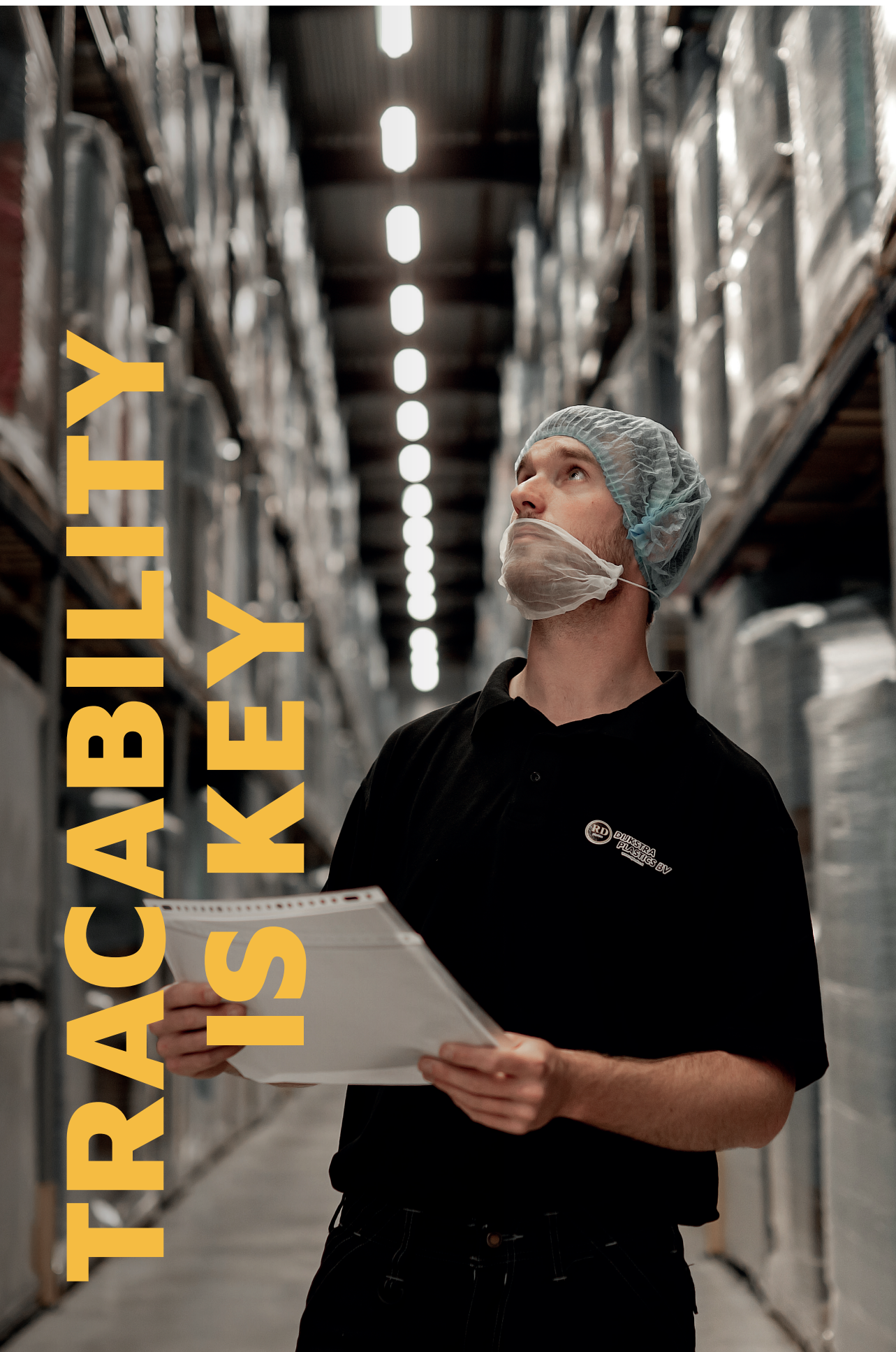
**DIJKSTRA
PLASTICS**



Dijkstra Plastics
Traceability is key

INDUSTRY INSIGHT

TRACEABILITY IS KEY



Dijkstra Plastics applies very strict standards when it comes to traceability of the packaging containers we produce. This traceability is very important for products which potentially come in contact with food. The general principal is that the food processing industry does not accept any materials and products with uncertain origins, coming into contact with foodstuffs. The traceability of these products is therefore required by law, while it is in the industry's interest to retain a high level of monitoring on its production, which can only be achieved by means of a meticulously organized traceability system. At Dijkstra Plastics this traceability system is an integral part of the business process and incorporated in the safeguarding of the BRC Packaging system.

How does it work?

All products produced by Dijkstra Plastics are delivered on a sealed pallet which has a unique pallet identification number. This unique number secures all data for us and for our customers. All data related to the delivered packaging containers can be requested through the unique identification number on this label. From the origin and composition of the raw materials used, up to the shoe size of the operator on duty, everything can be read out based on the unique pallet identification number.



Legal requirement

It is also very important that our customers have a well-functioning traceability system. If each party would have such a system, from the selection of raw materials up to offering to the end consumer, it would always be possible to trace back afterwards who contributed in which way and which materials were added by whom. As such, for the packaging of any products that may come into contact with food, there is clear legislation which requires this traceability. As a user of our packaging containers, you are therefore required to have this traceability well organized. Traceability can only be achieved if each individual link in the chain meets the rules of identification. In other words, the information accompanying materials and items leaving the production company, must be kept by each downstream user in the supply chain. In an ideal supply chain with certified companies, traceability will always be guaranteed, because each individual step in the chain must be documented. In reality however, different identification rules may apply for upstream and downstream users. Within this process it is essential that companies working under a certified quality system, check their suppliers and ensure that the products delivered are identified correctly.

Why is it so important?

The traceability of materials and objects intended to come into contact with foodstuffs must be assured in all stages, to simplify checks, recall of defective products, information for the consumer and the attribution of responsibility. Business operators should at least be able to identify companies to and from which the materials and objects are supplied. The reason for the mandatory traceability is to enable the authorities to (in the event of a problem) trace which raw materials were used in a material that came into contact with foodstuffs, or to trace back where the raw materials used were distributed and where they came from.

Responsibility

The entire supply chain from manufacturer of the raw material to the food packer must have a traceability system at their disposal, for the materials that come into contact with foodstuffs. The traceability of materials and objects is subsequently assured in all stages to simplify the checks, recall of defective products, information for the consumer and the attribution of responsibility. At least a system should be available that involves tracing one step back (which suppliers delivered which product) as well as one step ahead (what was delivered to whom). For every step in the process, at least two of the following pieces of information should be recorded:

- From or to whom the product was sold/purchased (company names and addresses)
- What is sold/purchased
- Transaction/delivery date



Legislation

- The basis of the EU-legislation for food contact materials is the Framework Regulation 1935/2004: This includes the requirements for traceability of all food contact materials, governed by Article 17.
- A similar effect can be identified from the anchoring of traceability in the Dutch Commodities Act with referrals to the 1935/2004 in the Commodities Act Decree on Packaging and Consumer Articles.
- Also packaging made of plastics must comply with this particular legislation for plastic food contact materials, Decree 10/2011. For this reason a guideline was drawn up regarding communication within the supply chain. The Decree 10/2011 in turn refers to the framework Regulation 1935/2004 where traceability is concerned.

Resources

- General FOOD LAW (general).
- EU legislation on food contact materials.
- Framework Regulation 1935/2004 (consolidated version).
- Article 17: traceability. This includes the requirements for traceability of all food contact materials.
- Anchoring of traceability in the Dutch Commodities Act.
- Referrals to the 1935/2004 in the Commodities Act Packaging and Consumer Articles.
- Regulation (EU) No 10/2011







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THE ART OF PACKAGING

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