

Traceability and supply chain management solutions for professional packing houses


Freshtrack Gateway™ is a unique traceability and supply chain management solution for today's modern packing house. Gateway™ has been designed to streamline the packing house process from the delivery of fresh produce, through grading, to packing and consignment.

Freshtrack Gateway™ Explained

Gateway™ records fresh produce as it is delivered. This data remains with the produce as it is processed through the packing facility, eliminating any further manual entry of data. Gateway™ is the most advanced and comprehensive packing house management system available in the world today. The system is flexible enough to adapt to any operation and to change with the demands of retailer requirements, including the trend toward RFID labelling.

Freshtrack Gateway™ electronically records details of produce as it arrives at the packing house, bar code labels it, maps its storage location in cool rooms and tracks the batch as it is graded. Gateway™ produces EAN compliant bar code labels at each packing outlet showing batch, grade and produce details. Labels are fixed to cartons, punnets, bags or RPCs. Pallet dockets are generated and load manifests created.

Gateway™ is a combination of software and hardware, including bar code and label printers, PCs, scanners, wiring and control boards. The complete system is supplied, installed and maintained by Freshtrack™ accredited technicians.



Freshtrack Gateway™ – solutions and benefits within the Packing House supply chain

The diagram below illustrates how Freshtrack Gateway™ can provide benefits to the packing house manager throughout the entire grading and packing process, from receivals of produce through to despatch to Distribution Centres and Retailers. By integrating with other Freshtrack software, Gateway™ works within the Fresh Produce Supply chain to ensure continuous traceability from the Grower to the Retailer.



Benefits

Full traceability

The marketing benefits of being able to guarantee full and accurate traceability back to a Grower's orchard block or planting are significant. This provides assurance to Buyers and Retailers that quality issues can be isolated and addressed immediately.

Quality control

Where packing staff wear RFID wrist bands to generate labels for packed boxes, punnets or bags the individual can be identified all the way to the retail shelf. If a quality issue arises at any stage through the supply chain the Packing House may be notified and the individual identified. Making quality the responsibility of the packing staff provides transparency in the final packout.

EDI & Forecasting

Gateway™ supports communication up and down the supply chain. Gateway™ links the Grower into the network through Freshtrack FieldOp™ and links Buyers and Retailers through Freshtrack Xchange™. Communication is streamlined through this common channel thereby automating an otherwise uncoordinated and time consuming process. Freshtrack Xchange™ provides the EDI interface, and manages the transmission of produce availability information to Buyers.

Increased productivity

Gateway™ allows you to concentrate on what you do best: pack quality produce. The time and staff dedicated to auditing, administration, manual tallying, stock control, data entry, and process flow management are virtually eliminated. Gateway™ automates the process of Packing House management by electronically recording delivery details, scanning batches of produce as they are graded and scanning packed product. This frees up time and resources to increase productivity without additional labour.

Lower staff costs

Users of Gateway™ have reported a significant drop in administration and packing staff costs. So significant have these savings been that the typical pay back time of Gateway™ is usually less than 12 months.

Improved supplier relationships

Gateway™ is supplied with a host of comprehensive reports tailored for Grower suppliers. Reports provide a detailed audit of the product delivered in a very transparent format. Reports include details of batches delivered, grades packed, percentage and volume of reject grades and itemised packing charges. This information is available instantaneously when requested by growers. Improved reporting leads to better trading partner confidence.

Cost Savings

Packing staff

Conversion of staff to piece rates. Where staff wear RFID tags Gateway™ records individual productivity and enables packout quality to be monitored. This provides increased productivity whilst maintaining quality.

Administration staff

Grower reports and produce status is stored electronically. There is no need to manually tally packout volume or physically check the status of produce. All manual record keeping is eliminated as the relevant data is recorded on delivery and automatically registered through to consignment by way of RFID or bar code scanning. All Grower reports are automatically generated, including invoices.

Stock control

Gateway™ allows instantaneous stock reconciliation by variety, cool room, grading or packing stage, and consignment. The location and quantity of all stock is known instantly with Gateway™.

Modules available

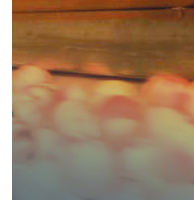
Freshtrack™ is continually expanding the software modules available for packing houses. Additional modules currently available for Gateway™ include:

Pooling Module

The pooling module allows the averaging of prices achieved for groups of Growers.

Bin Tracking Module

Where a packing house lends bins or lugs to Growers the bin tracking module records the whereabouts of those bins. Essentially this is a stock reconciliation module.

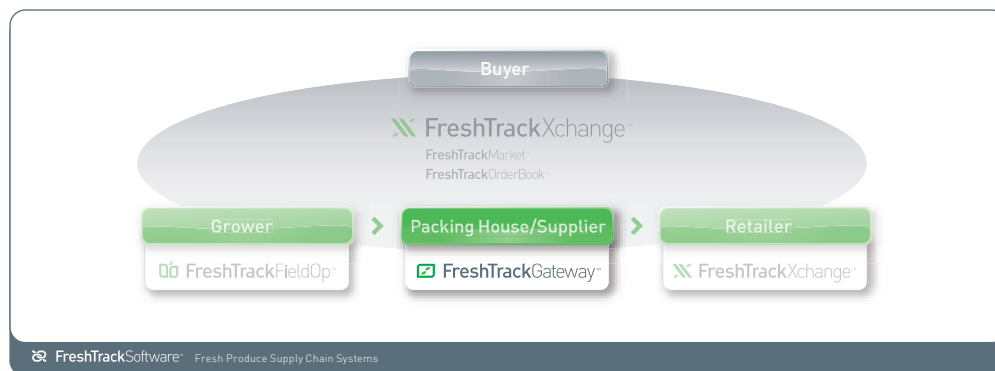


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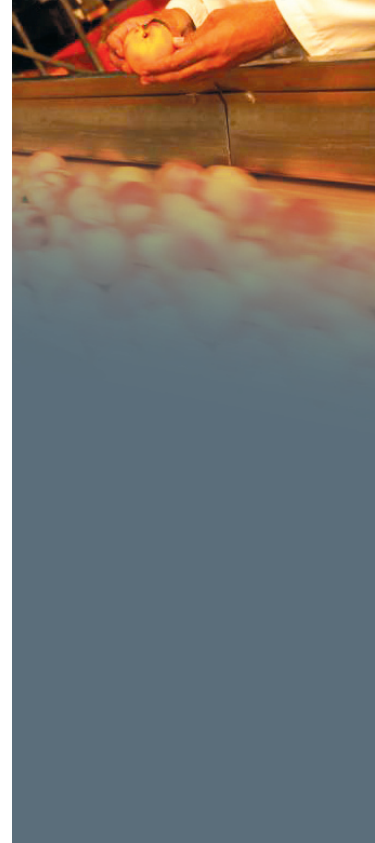
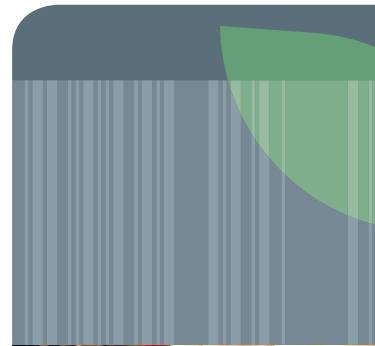
Reporting

Gateway™ has more than 250 standard reports included in the software. The reporting function is very powerful and covers stock control, grower reports, despatch and consignment, staff productivity, invoicing and payments, and accounting and auditing reports. Gateway™ has a report builder allowing you to create your own custom reports.

Freshtrack Software Solutions



Freshtrack Software™ solutions add value throughout the entire supply chain. FieldOp™ communicates directly with packing sheds operating Freshtrack Gateway™, Freshtrack's packing shed management system. When produce is delivered to the packing shed, data recorded for that delivery can be automatically transferred to Freshtrack Gateway™. Data may include block details, variety and delivery quantity. Grower crop forecasts can also be sent electronically to Freshtrack Gateway™ via Freshtrack FieldOp™ to provide information for packer marketing programmes, and ultimately to assist in achieving the best market prices. Packing sheds using Freshtrack Gateway™ receive orders and transfer stock forecasts using Freshtrack Xchange™. Freshtrack Xchange™ is a trading system used by Buyers and Retailers to electronically transact with packing houses.



Contact details

For more information about any Freshtrack product, or to see a demonstration, please contact Freshtrack Software™:

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