

Enterprise Blueprint - Unlocking Innovation Potential

A guide for our customers

Version 1.1



Welcome to the Assure+ Enterprise Blueprint

This blueprint has been developed to help organizations of all sizes and industries to successfully implement the Assure+ solution, and to realize its full potential as a tool for promoting traceability, transparency, and sustainability throughout the supply chain.

As you know, supply chain management is becoming increasingly complex, with heightened consumer expectations, tighter regulatory requirements, and a growing demand for sustainable and ethical products. In this context, Assure+ offers a powerful solution for organizations seeking to enhance their supply chain operations, improve their compliance, and reduce their environmental impact.

The Assure+ Enterprise Blueprint provides a guide for organizations looking to implement Assure+ across their supply chain. Whether you are a food producer, a commodities company, a certification provider, or a specialty equipment provider, this blueprint will help you to identify the key steps and considerations for implementing Assure+ effectively and efficiently.

We have drawn upon our extensive experience working with organizations across a range of industries, to develop a step-by-step guide that covers everything from initial planning and scoping, to data migration, configuration, and user adoption. By following this blueprint, you can ensure that your Assure+ implementation is aligned with your business goals, tailored to your specific needs, and designed to deliver measurable value to your organization.

So, whether you are just beginning to explore the possibilities of Assure+, or are ready to take the next steps in your implementation journey, this blueprint will be a valuable resource to guide you along the way. We look forward to working with you as you embark on this exciting journey of transformation and growth.

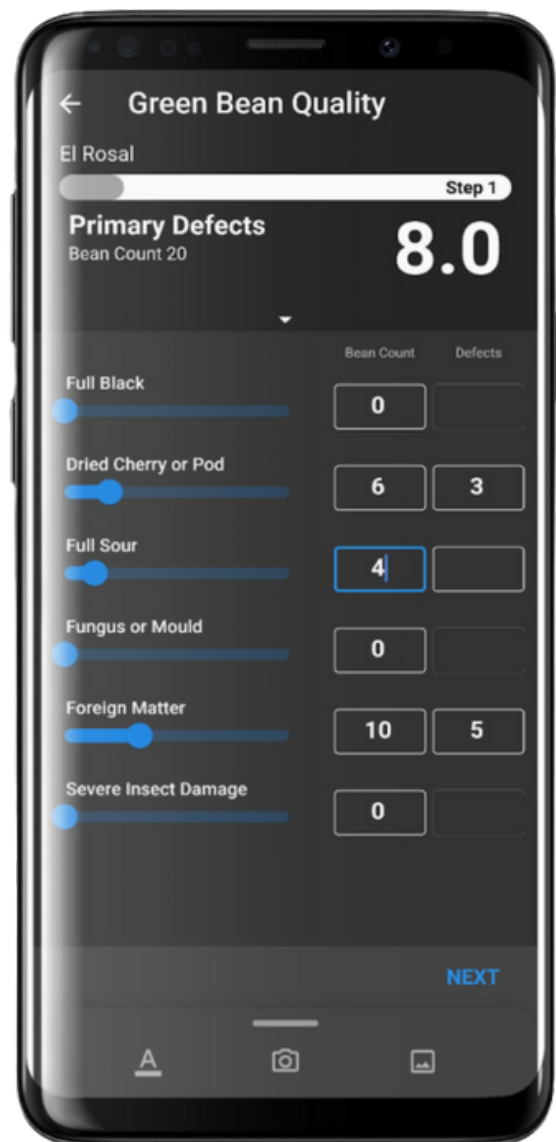


John Pennington
Executive Manager TradeWindow Assure+

Mobility and automation have the potential to transform customer experience and the way we work.

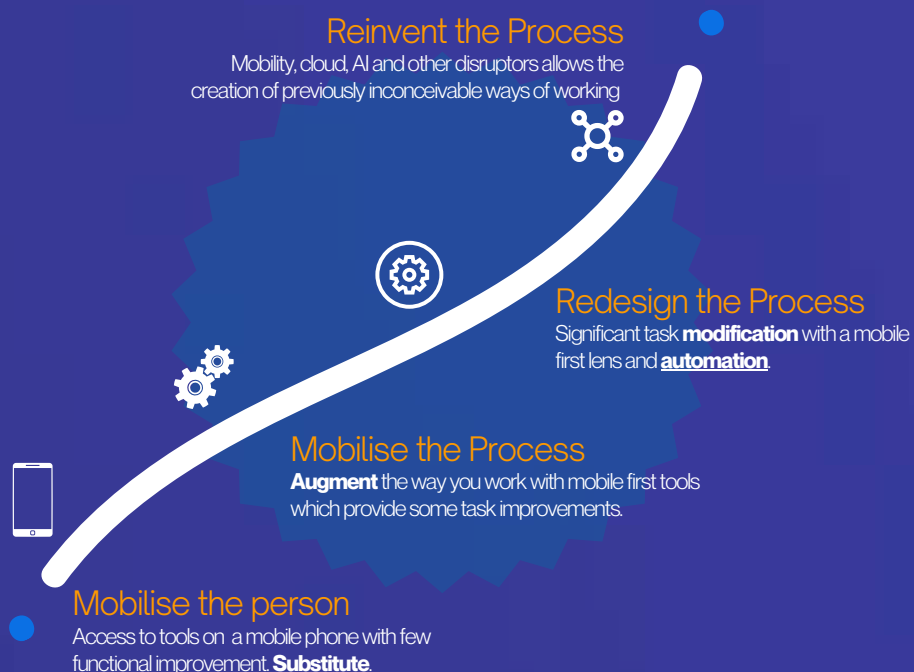
Powerful devices, fast and robust networks, accessible cognitive computing and analytical insight are combining to deliver new operating models, higher levels of productivity and previously unobtainable efficiency gains.

Let's do this.....



Achieving your digital goals incrementally with SAMR

The SAMR model is a framework for integrating technology into education, developed by Dr. Ruben Puentedura. The acronym stands for Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition. Each level of the model represents a different way that technology can be used in the classroom, with higher levels indicating more advanced uses that can lead to more transformative learning experiences. We also think it's great for businesses to plan the use of digital era technologies.



At the Substitution level, technology is used to replace traditional methods, such as using a digital textbook instead of a paper one. At the Augmentation level, technology is used to enhance traditional methods, such as using a digital textbook that allows for interactive features like videos and quizzes. At the Modification level, technology is used to change traditional methods, such as using a collaborative document editing tool like Google Docs for group work. Finally, at the Redefinition level, technology is used to create new methods of learning that were previously impossible, such as using virtual reality to simulate historical events.

The SAMR model is relevant to Assure+ because it can help educators and organizations to think creatively about how to integrate the solution into their operations and workflows. By considering the various levels of the SAMR model, organizations can identify opportunities to not only improve their existing processes, but also to fundamentally transform the way they approach traceability, transparency, and sustainability in their supply chain.

For example, at the Substitution level, organizations might use Assure+ to replace paper-based documentation with digital records. At the Augmentation level, they might use Assure+ to enhance their traceability capabilities with real-time data tracking and analytics. At the Modification level, they might use Assure+ to change their entire approach to supply chain management, with a more collaborative and data-driven approach. Finally, at the Redefinition level, they might use Assure+ to create new ways of engaging with consumers and stakeholders, such as providing real-time information about the origins and sustainability of their products.

The SAMR model provides a useful framework for organizations to think strategically about how to integrate Assure+ into their operations and workflows, and to explore the full potential of the solution for transforming their supply chain management practices

Maximizing Impact: The Importance of a Staged Approach to Assure+ Implementation

Taking a staged approach to implementing Assure+ is crucial to ensuring its success and long-term impact. By addressing immediate needs in an agile and impactful way, organizations can see the benefits of the platform early on, which helps build buy-in from stakeholders and paves the way for future expansion and enhancements.

At the same time, preparing a strong foundation for the future is important to ensure that Assure+ can continue to meet evolving needs and challenges. This involves carefully considering the organization's long-term goals and strategies, as well as the technology infrastructure and resources needed to support them.

The staged approach also allows for a more manageable and controlled implementation process, which can minimize disruption and ensure that the platform is adopted smoothly and effectively. By taking the time to understand the specific needs and challenges of the organization and its stakeholders, and tailoring the implementation to those needs, Assure+ can have a greater impact and deliver more value over time.

Stage 1

Start in small manageable impactful ways

Explore

Learn about your business operations, immediate needs and create an initial short list of areas where Assure+ could provide benefit.

Try

Select and rapidly deploy an enhancement proof-of-concept to address an immediate need, demonstrate platform effectiveness and inform the planning process.

Plan

Take a structured approach to uncover the opportunity for mobility and automation. Identify, plan and prioritise your next steps with a more detailed mobility strategy.

Stage 2

Gain broader acceptance and adoption

Expand

Scale your enhancement proof-of-concept to deliver value to an extended group of business stakeholders both inside and outside of your organisation.

Ramp

Gain momentum with mobile first enhancements across your organisation. Building acceptance, advocacy and excitement.

Stage 3

Scale innovation breadth and sophistication

Commence Transformation

With enhancements paving the way it is time to embark on a more ambitious transformation agenda, with significant redesign of a prioritised set of business processes, including automation of process steps.

Reinvent

Start combining disruptive digital technologies to fundamentally change you work gets done, value is generated and business intelligence collected.

Standalone or an integrated solution? It's up to you.

Assure+ is designed to work in two different ways. First, it can be used on its own as a standalone platform, meaning it is used independently without being connected to any other systems. Second, it can also be integrated with existing systems of records, which is done through webhooks and API.

Think of starting with Assure+ as building a solid foundation for a house. You want to make sure the foundation is strong and stable before you start building the rest of the house on top of it. In the same way, starting with a standalone implementation of Assure+ allows you to establish a strong foundation for your supply chain traceability and transparency before you start integrating it with other systems

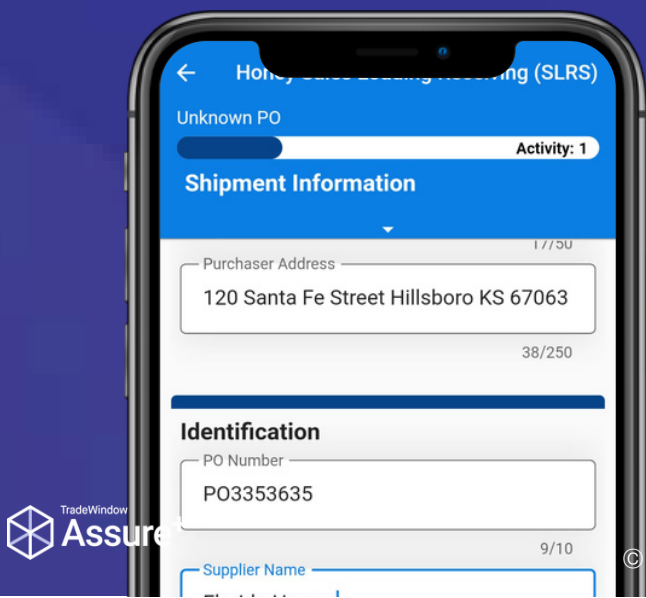
Now, in line with the SAMR model, we recommend that organizations start out by using Assure+ as a standalone solution, and then integrate it with other systems over time. This is because starting with a standalone solution allows organizations to learn how to use Assure+ effectively, build trust and confidence in the platform, and identify any areas for improvement. Once an organization is comfortable with the platform and has a good understanding of how it can be used, they can then start to integrate it with other systems to further streamline their processes and increase efficiency.

Here's an example. Let's say a food producer is using an inventory management system to track their stock levels. They can use Assure+ to collect data about the quality and condition of their inventory, such as temperature and humidity levels. With the help of webhooks and APIs, this data can be sent in real-time to the inventory management system to provide an up-to-date summary of the condition of the inventory in stock. This helps the producer ensure that their products are being stored in optimal conditions and helps prevent spoilage or waste.

Starting with a standalone solution and then integrating over time is a smart way to implement Assure+ and get the most out of its features and capabilities.

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David Freitas
Lead Solution Architect TradeWindow Assure+



A close-up, high-angle shot of a person's face, focusing on their right eye. The eye is brown and looking slightly upwards and to the right. The skin is fair and has a natural glow. The background is dark and out of focus.

Innovation starts with people. We're a diverse team of highly skilled subject matter experts. Together with our customers we work to overcome the challenges in global trade. Shared values, creativity and passion push us to deliver the best work of our lives.

TradeWindow Cultural Manifesto

Already using GS1 standards.

Assure+ Enables Seamless Integration with Existing GS1 Standards for Improved Supply Chain Transparency and Digital Engagement

Assure+ is a powerful tool that enables customers with existing GS1 standards-based item, batch, and product identifiers to easily manage their supply chain data in a transparent and customizable way. With Assure+, customers can seamlessly integrate their GS1 standards-based data with the platform to gain full visibility into their supply chain operations, from raw materials to finished products.

By leveraging Assure+ and GS1 standards, customers can ensure accurate and efficient tracking of inventory, reducing the risk of errors and miscommunications. This also allows for faster and more precise identification of potential issues, such as product recalls or quality concerns, allowing for swift action to be taken to resolve them.

In addition to improving supply chain efficiency, Assure+ can also be used to enhance digital consumer engagement and promote sustainability. With the ability to create smart labels, customers can provide consumers with detailed information about the products they are purchasing, including origin, processing, and environmental impact. This increased transparency not only helps build trust with consumers, but can also help drive sales for companies who prioritize sustainability and ethical sourcing.

Overall, Assure+ offers a powerful solution for customers who want to improve their supply chain operations, while also prioritizing transparency, sustainability, and consumer engagement. By leveraging existing GS1 standards-based data, customers can quickly and easily integrate with the platform, and start reaping the benefits of improved data management and supply chain visibility.

GS1. Even better with Assure+

- Ability to recognize and utilize existing GS1 standard identifiers such as GTIN, Digital link, GS128, GS1 QR code syntax for seamless integration with existing systems
- Customizable and transparent data management for improved supply chain traceability and transparency
- Mobile apps for on-the-go data collection and management
- Smart label technology for enhanced consumer engagement and product information sharing
- Automated workflows and alerts for improved efficiency and reduced risk of errors
- Integration with other systems through webhooks and APIs for easy data sharing and analysis.

Driving Supply Chain Collaboration: Best Practices for Engaging Suppliers with Assure+

Engaging suppliers to also use Assure+ is an important step towards achieving end-to-end supply chain traceability and transparency. Here are some tips on how Assure+ platform users can best engage with their suppliers:

Communicate the benefits: Start by explaining the benefits of using Assure+ to your suppliers. This could include improved traceability, increased transparency, and better collaboration throughout the supply chain. Emphasize how these benefits can help your suppliers to improve their own processes and enhance their relationships with their customers.

Provide training and support: Offer your suppliers training and support on how to use Assure+. Provide them with resources such as user manuals, training videos, and webinars to help them get started. Make sure they have access to technical support if they encounter any issues.

Collaborate on data standards: Work with your suppliers to ensure that they are using the same data standards as you. This will ensure that data is consistent and accurate across the entire supply chain. Encourage your suppliers to adopt industry standards such as GS1 and to use standardized data formats.

Start small: Encourage your suppliers to start small by using Assure+ to track a single product or batch. This will help them to get comfortable with the system and understand how it can benefit their business. Once they see the benefits, they may be more willing to expand their use of the platform.

Incentivize adoption: Consider offering incentives to suppliers who adopt Assure+. This could include preferential treatment in the supply chain, improved payment terms, or increased visibility for their products.

By following these tips, Assure+ platform users can help their suppliers to adopt the platform and achieve end-to-end supply chain traceability and transparency.



Combing existing data sources to power traceability and transparency.

Efficient data collection and management are crucial for businesses to optimize their production and supply chain processes. Assure+ offers several integration options for production lines and warehousing, allowing for streamlined data collection and analysis. With Assure+, businesses can receive data from various sources, including RFID scanners, barcode scanners, and the FS1 Field Services mobile app.

RFID scanners are commonly integrated into production lines, allowing for the tracking and management of inventory. For example, a food manufacturer could use RFID scanners to track the location and movement of raw materials and finished products throughout the production process, ensuring timely delivery and efficient stock management.

Barcode scanners are also frequently used in warehouses to track inventory and shipments. A medical device manufacturer, for instance, could use barcode scanners to track the location and movement of medical equipment throughout the supply chain, from the manufacturing plant to the final destination.

Assure+ is fully integrated with the FS1 Field Services mobile app, designed to facilitate data collection in the field. This integration option is ideal for suppliers of organic ingredients or other specialty products. The mobile app allows suppliers to collect data on the quality and provenance of their products while on-site, which can then be uploaded to Assure+ for processing and analysis. This ensures that businesses have access to accurate and up-to-date information, improving transparency and supply chain traceability.

Assure+ can be integrated into transportation management systems to provide end-to-end traceability and transparency of products throughout the supply chain. By integrating with transportation management systems, Assure+ can track the movement of products from the point of origin to the final destination, providing real-time updates on the status of shipments and helping to identify any issues or delays that may arise.

For example, a food manufacturer using Assure+ can integrate with a transportation management system to track the movement of ingredients and finished products from the manufacturing plant to distribution centers and retail locations. By using RFID scanners and barcode scanners (including the FS1 mobile app) to capture data at various points in the supply chain, Assure+ can provide real-time updates on the location and status of products, helping to identify any potential issues or delays that may arise.

Suppliers can also benefit from integrating with Assure+. For example, a supplier of raw materials to a food manufacturer can use Assure+ to track the movement of their products from the point of origin to the manufacturing plant. By using the FS1 field services mobile app to capture data at each stage of the supply chain, the supplier can provide real-time updates on the location and status of their products, ensuring that they arrive at the manufacturing plant on time and in good condition.

Creating a pathway to FSMA compliance with Assure+

The FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) mandates that food facilities establish and maintain records that enable the effective tracing of food products throughout the supply chain. Compliance with FSMA is critical to mitigating the risk of foodborne illness and protecting public health, and is mandated for domestic producers and importers into USA across a number of food categories. Assure+ offers a comprehensive set of capabilities to help food facilities comply with the various aspects of FSMA, including record-keeping, traceability, and data sharing.



Record Keeping

Assure+ provides food facilities with a centralized platform to maintain records related to the Hazard Analysis and Risk-based Preventive Controls (HARPC) plan, supply chain program, sanitation and hygiene, recall, allergen control, and environmental monitoring. Assure+ captures and stores the necessary data points related to each record-keeping requirement, generating reports and data visualizations for compliance reporting and to identify areas for improvement.

Traceability

Assure+ enhances traceability capabilities by capturing and storing food product movement data throughout the supply chain. Assure+ captures information such as the immediate previous sources and immediate subsequent recipients of food products, as well as the dates of their transfer, enabling food facilities to quickly and accurately identify the source of a potential contamination or recall.

Data Sharing

Assure+ facilitates data sharing with regulatory bodies, auditors, and other stakeholders, ensuring the integrity of the food supply chain. Food facilities can share traceability data with IBM Food Trust, providing consumers with more information about the food they consume.

Compliance roadmap

- 1. Assess Compliance Needs:** Review the requirements of Section 204(d) of FSMA and identify which apply to your business. This includes identifying the records that need to be maintained and the data points that need to be captured.
- 2. Customize Assure+ Environment:** Configure the platform to meet your business needs, including defining your organizational structure, configuring workflows, and defining data capture templates.
- 3. Import Existing Records:** Import existing records into Assure+ to ensure all relevant data is stored in one centralized location.
- 4. Train Team:** Train your team on how to use Assure+, capture necessary data points, and generate compliance reports.
- 5. Continuously Monitor and Update:** Continuously monitor and update your Assure+ environment to ensure it reflects any changes to your business operations or compliance needs.
- 6. Integrate Assure+ with IBM Food Trust or similar platforms to enhance traceability capabilities and enable data sharing with the entire supply chain.**



Let's do this, together

For more information please contact the
TradeWindow team. We're always happy to assist.

@ sales@tradewindow.io