

Traceability in the construction supply chain

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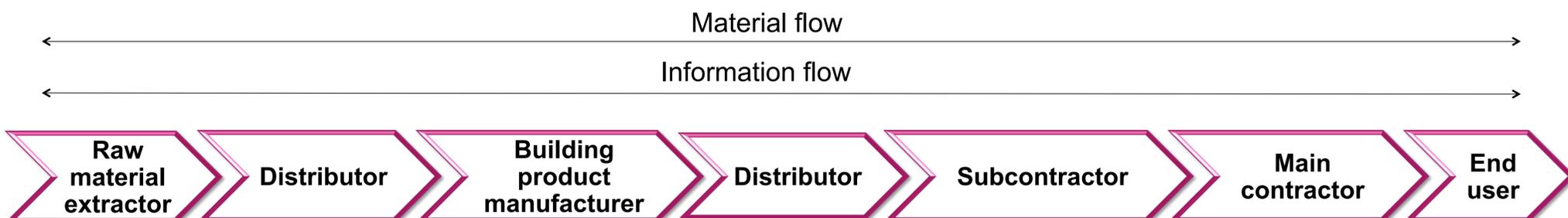


Figure 1 Traceability of construction materials

Introduction

With the rise of globalisation, supply chains have become longer and more fragmented, so nowadays products have long, complex journeys before they reach end consumers. As a result, customers have little awareness of where their products come from, and in what conditions they have been produced or distributed.

Traceability (the ability to follow the information related to a product) is a key component for verifying and ensuring claims associated with production and transformation of the product as it moves along supply chain.

The idea of traceability is to have an information flow following a materials flow at each step of product's supply chain (Figure 1). Figure 2 shows how traceability contributes to Sustainable Development.

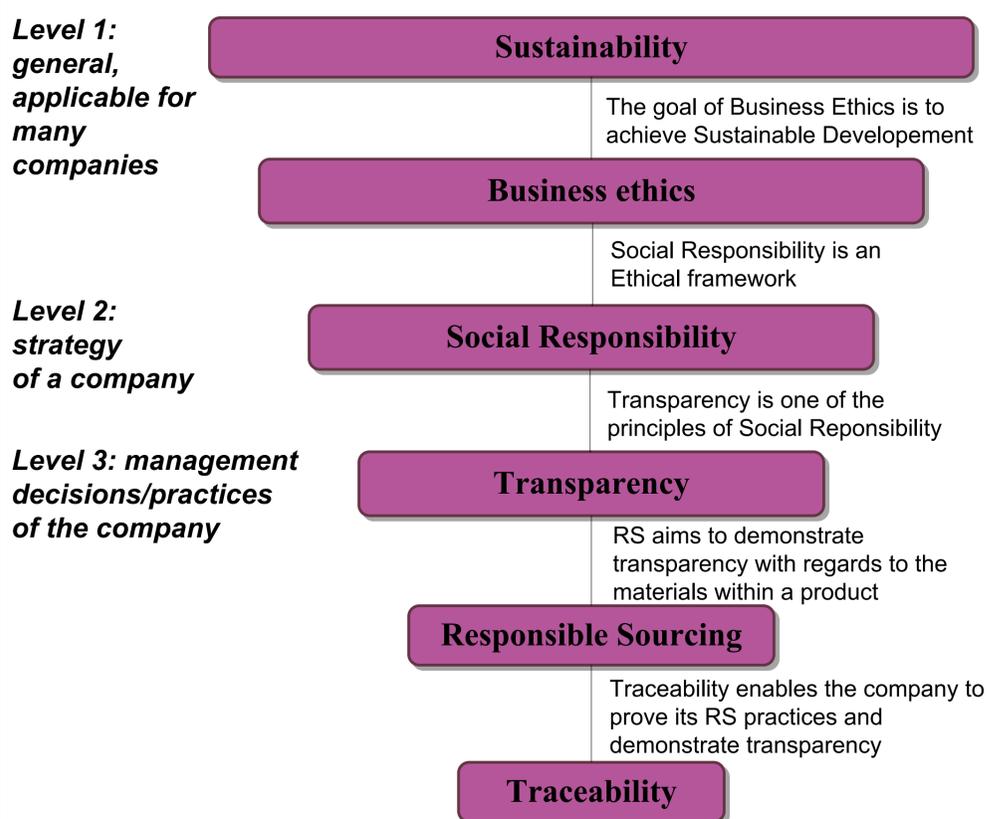


Figure 2 Traceability in the context of Sustainable Development

Research aim and objectives

Aim 1: Develop a **theoretical framework** for traceability within the construction supply chain

- 1) Understand the conceptual meaning of the term traceability in supply chain
- 2) Analyse how the concept of traceability is addressed in the construction sector
- 3) Assess construction companies' attitude and awareness towards traceability programmes
- 4) Identify potential benefits and challenges associated with implementing traceability programmes within the construction industry

Aim 2: Develop a **process model** for implementing traceability within the construction supply chain

- 5) Develop a strategy to implement traceability in the construction supply chain
- 6) Test and validate effectiveness of the strategy
- 7) Identify implications and recommendations for changes in standards and practices

Research methodology

Research stage • Outcome

