

Canada doesn't have Track and Trace. That makes Canadian drug importation unsafe.

What is the Drug Supply Chain Security Act?

Passed in 2013, the Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) requires that pharmaceutical supply chain trading partners—from manufacturer to dispenser—use a **track and trace system** to enhance pharmaceutical supply chain security. In general, manufacturers are required to serialize product, and downstream trading partners may only accept serialized product. These trading partners must also exchange, and store, track-and-trace information as product moves through the supply chain, including the transaction history going back to the manufacturer. Further, trading partners must have systems in place to verify product and conduct investigations into suspected and illegitimate products.

Ten years in the making, this system cost hundreds of millions of dollars to implement. Manufacturers, wholesalers, pharmacies, and even logistics companies invested in new technology to capture and store this track-and-trace information as well as develop systems to verify and investigate suspect and illegitimate product.



Criminal rings sold counterfeit oncology and cholesterol products into the U.S.

Why did we need the DSCSA?

Counterfeiters have become increasingly savvy. Over the past twenty years, they have expanded into medicines for cancer, heart disease, cholesterol, HIV, and many others. The DSCSA can't prevent criminals from trying to sell fake medication, but it makes it a lot easier to find counterfeit products.

How does the DSCSA protect patients?

Recently a criminal ring put fake pills in real bottles of several popular HIV medications and tried to sell them to pharmacists. In following their obligations under the DSCSA, the pharmacist caught the crime and quarantined the medicine, protecting his patients. Learn more in this video:
<https://safedr.org/DSCSASAFETY>



This bottle received a serial number on the manufacturing floor, which every other handler recorded on its way to the pharmacy shelf.

Doesn't Canada have a track and trace system like the DSCSA?

No, Canada has no track and trace law like DSCSA.

Some Canadian drug importation advocates proposed adding a serial number to medicine purchased from Canada once it gets to the U.S. This doesn't give transparency back to the non-US manufacturer, just to the point of importation at the U.S. border. This would mean that **no one could authenticate the source of medicine before it reached our border**. Who knows where the medication came from before that?



To learn more, visit <https://www.safemedicines.org/policymakers-media>