

Activity Report

2023 | 2024

Attestra WE RAISE
CONFIDENCE

O.C. 877-2021, s. 1.

2. This Regulation applies to soils containing con-
taminants from human activities, whatever the con-
centration of the contaminants.

1. This Regulation governs the identification of
vines, namely the species "*Bos taurus*" and "*Bos in-
dicus*" and their hybrids, the identification of cer-
vids, namely the Cervidae family, and the identifica-
tion of ovines, namely the genus *Ovis*, kept or raised
in Québec. To ensure the traceability of those ani-
mals, an identification system is established.
O.C. 205-2002, s. 1; O.C. 161-2002



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Message from the President and the General Manager

Three regulatory mandates at the heart of our services

Attestra develops and carries out its activities in accordance with the regulatory mandates received from the Québec government. On September 25, 2001, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) mandated Agri-Traçabilité Québec (ATQ), which later became Attestra on December 2, 2020, to ensure the traceability of agricultural products.

To make the most of the organization's expertise and as a reflection of its strategic orientations, Attestra's areas of intervention have gradually broadened, enabling us to apply our solutions and expertise to other societal issues beyond just the traceability of agricultural products.

Our ability to design and implement traceability solutions has been demonstrated by two other regulatory mandates entrusted to Attestra: the mandate related to the traceability of excavated contaminated soils for the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP), received in 2020, and more recently, the mandate to monitor the use of antibiotics in animal health assigned by MAPAQ.

These two additional mandates have dominated Attestra's activities during this financial year, with the Information Technology team responding first and foremost, and then followed by Technical Support and Customer Service personnel. The latter are increasingly in demand from stakeholders in the agricultural and environmental sectors as they have been forged into a solid, multi-purpose team that is ready to respond with diligence to all users of our systems.

Our 2023-2024 activity report presents the achievements of the last few months in the context of our three regulatory mandates.

Animal traceability in Canada: evolving federal regulations

On March 18, 2023, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) published the draft Regulations Amending the *Health of Animals Regulations* (Identification and Traceability) in the Government of Canada's Official Gazette (*Canada Gazette*, Part I).

This long-awaited publication is the culmination of a process that began in 2006, when it was realized that identification and traceability requirements were ineffective in preventing and responding to disease outbreaks. The federal Minister of Agriculture and the provincial and territorial counterparts committed to implementing a national traceability system in collaboration with the industry.

To date, there are still significant gaps between the Québec and the Canadian traceability systems, the latter being described as a "traceability system at each end of the value chain" because animals are identified when they leave their farm of origin and the identifiers are declared at slaughter or export, at the end of the chain.

The overall objective of the CFIA's proposed regulatory amendments, dated 18 March 2023, is to improve this traceability system by expanding its scope and standardizing it nationally in order to limit and reduce the impact of a disease, food safety issue, or natural disaster on agricultural industry stakeholders, as well as the resources required by the industry and government to carry out response activities and support market access.

Following a period of consultation, while some of the proposals for improvement have been well received and will strengthen the current system, it is clear that weaknesses remain and many of poorly received proposals will require adjustments.

In a context where livestock are currently or could potentially be affected by numerous diseases, it is imperative that Canada equip itself with a robust traceability system.

CFIA has listened to the comments from stakeholders during the consultation period and, over the next year, will be looking at the elements of the regulatory proposal where changes can be made.

In Québec, this adjustment period will be an opportunity to lay the foundation for the changes that will affect our traceability system.

The main differences between Québec and Canada, as well as the proposed regulatory changes, are presented in the *Proposed Amendments to Federal Regulations* section of this activity report.

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all our partners, all of Attestra's employees for their commitment to ensuring quality services, and the users of our systems who, through their comments and feedback, enable us to continually improve our tools and services.

We would also like to emphasize the quality of the relationships we maintain with our founding members, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ), the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and La Financière agricole, with whom we have undertaken a process to review Attestra's governance which is scheduled for completion in 2025.

Paul Doyon
President

Marie Christine Talbot
General Manager



Attestra's Mission

Attestra develops, implements and manages identification and traceability systems while preserving the integrity and quality of the databases entrusted to its responsibility by ministries, sectors and organizations.

Our Regulatory Mandates

In line with provincial policies and guidelines aimed at ensuring animal health protection, controlling contamination that may be caused by excavated contaminated soils, or combating antibiotic resistance, legislation allows the government, by regulation, to establish systems that will enable stakeholders to meet the requirements that have been put in place. Attestra is a leading partner in such implementation.

MANAGING THE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION AND TRACEABILITY SYSTEM

In accordance with the *Regulation respecting the identification and traceability of certain animals (chapter P-42, r. 7 of the Animal Health Protection Act)*, the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ) has mandated Attestra to manage the animal identification and traceability system. Within the framework of this mandate, Attestra develops, manages and ensures the operational maintenance of this system. Attestra also provides the technical services that enable the Ministry to effectively use the traceability system for its own purposes.

In the period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, Customer Service agents as well as Technical Support personnel were involved to a significant level:

35,150

Calls received

7,934

Documents processed

1,202

Technical support requests processed

3,146,342

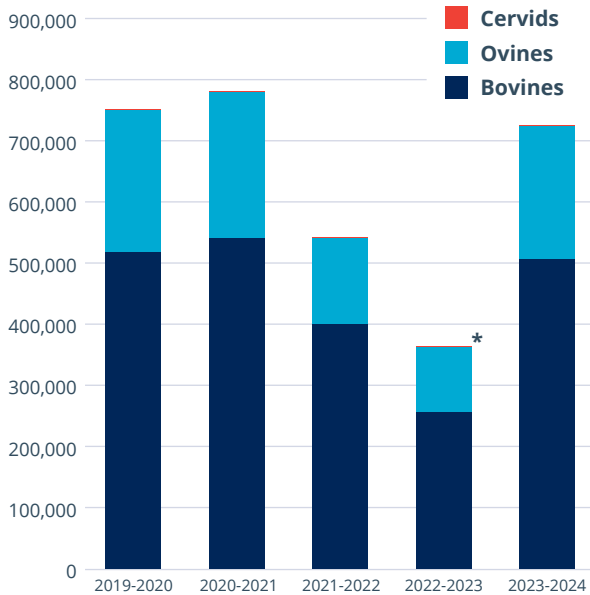
Declarations submitted by producers and stakeholders

363,257

Declarations processed by Customer Service

During this period, a total of **725,694** identifiers for bovines, ovines and cervids were ordered from Attestra and delivered at the request of various stakeholders in Québec.

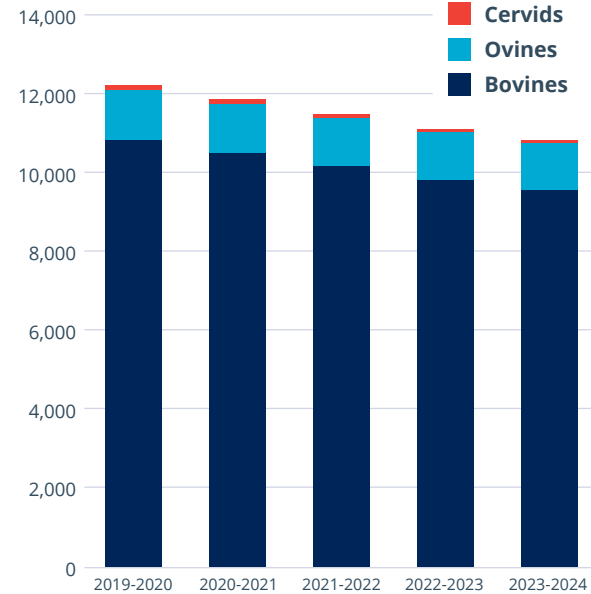
NUMBER OF IDENTIFIERS ORDERED & DELIVERED, BY PRODUCTION



* Due to an issue encountered in updating the status of orders following the Allflex IT migration, not all identifiers ordered in 2022 were accounted for in SimpliTRACE. This situation was corrected in 2023.

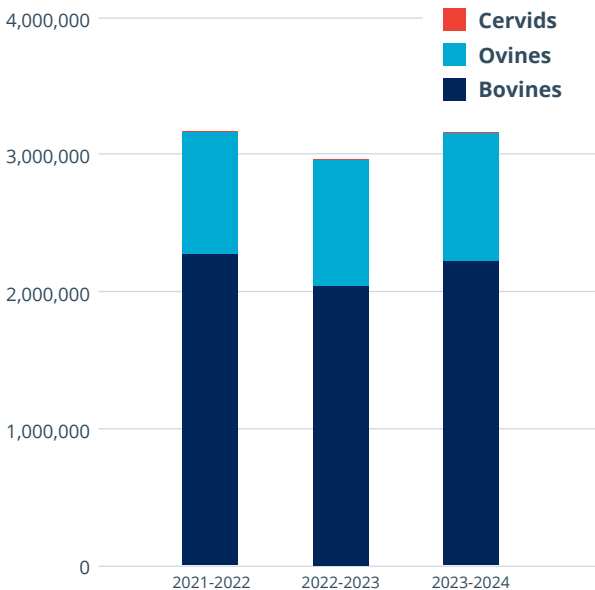
The number of active producers in the database varies slightly from one 12-month period to the next, with a slight downward trend observed for all three types of production over the last two periods.

NUMBER OF ACTIVE PRODUCERS & STAKEHOLDERS

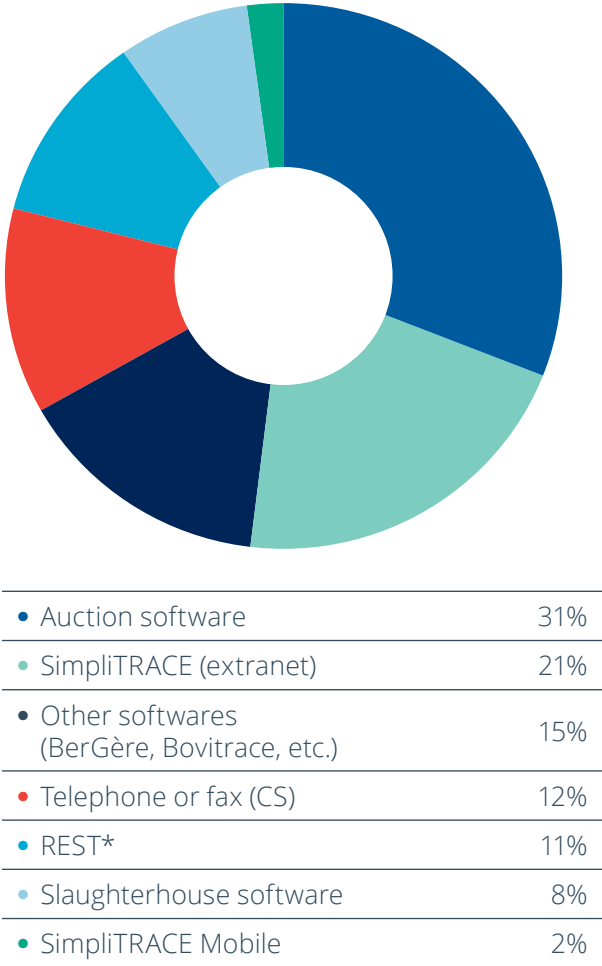


The collaboration of producers and stakeholders is essential to maintaining the quality of the information collected in the traceability database. This past year, **3,146,342** declarations were transmitted to SimpliTRACE, for all types of production.

NUMBER OF DECLARATIONS TRANSMITTED BY PRODUCERS & STAKEHOLDERS, BY PRODUCTION



ORIGIN OF DECLARATIONS IN THE ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION DATABASE BETWEEN APRIL 1, 2023, AND MARCH 31, 2024.



* Representational State Transfer: A software architecture style enabling the development of Web services and systems that can easily communicate with each other

Attestra also carries out any other mandate entrusted to it by MAPAQ concerning the animal identification and traceability system, such as the *Québec premises identification portal*.

The Québec premises identification portal

A must-have for ensuring the effectiveness of a traceability system

Mandated by MAPAQ, Attestra manages the only official website enabling agri-food companies to obtain a premises number in order to meet the traceability regulation requirements: the *Québec premises identification portal*.

Premises numbers are essential for an effective traceability system. They enable animal movements to be tracked, agri-food activities to be defined, and to have access to contact details for personnel and premises. In the event of an emergency, it is crucial for the relevant authorities to have access to this information in order to react quickly and effectively.

To date, the *Premises identification portal* provides official numbers for several species:

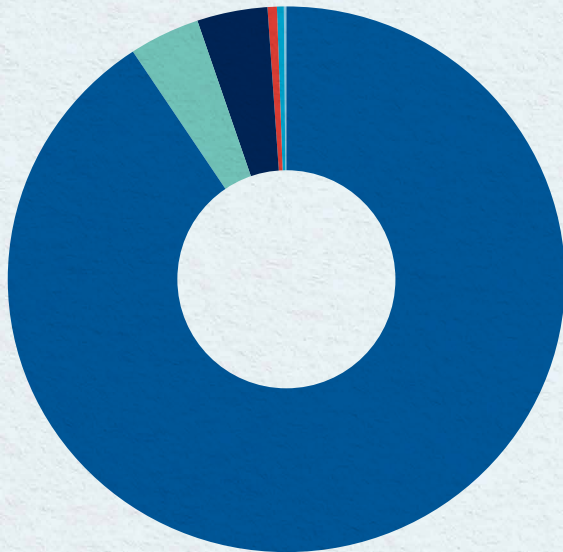
- Pork and bison production, within the requirements of federal legislation governed by the [Health of Animals Regulations, Part XV \(Animal identification\)](#);
- Goat production, where the process of obtaining premises numbers for reporting traceability information is currently available on a voluntary basis. As part of the publication of proposed amendments to Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*, operators of premises where goats are kept, assembled or disposed of will be required to obtain a premises identification number in order to purchase animal identifiers and declare the movement of animals;

- Bovine, ovine and cervid production, for which it is necessary to have a premises number for each cadastral lot in order to comply with the [Regulation respecting the identification and traceability of certain animals](#) (P-42, r. 7) and to be able to make traceability declarations via SimpliTRACE;
- Under the [Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations \(Hatchery\)](#), poultry breeders who supply hatcheries in Québec will soon be required to obtain breeding premises numbers through the *Portal*.

PREMISES: DEFINITION AND TRACEABILITY

A premises is a land parcel defined by a legal description (cadastral lot) or, in its absence, by georeferenced coordinates, on which animals are kept, assembled or disposed of. Each premises must be identified by an official number, starting with the letters QC followed by seven digits. A single identification number must be associated with a premises even if several species are present on the premises. This number is provided randomly by the system, in sequential order, and the digits have no other point of reference. To date, the system has generated over 30,000 numbers.

**NUMBER OF PREMISES REGISTERED ON THE
QUÉBEC PREMISES IDENTIFICATION PORTAL
AS OF MARCH 31, 2024**



Species	Premises numbers generated
• Bovine	27,244
• Ovine	1,301
• Pork	1,259
• Goat	133
• Cervid	101
• Bison	20



Proposed *Regulations Amending the Health of Animals Regulations, Part XV (Identification and Traceability)*

To enable governments and stakeholders to prepare for and respond effectively and efficiently to animal disease outbreaks, food safety issues and natural disasters, **Canada's livestock traceability system needs to be modernized and enhanced.**

Specific gaps to be filled in the current regulatory requirements for livestock traceability were identified, and a proposed regulatory amendment was published on March 18, 2023, by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in the Canada Gazette Part I (CGI)*. A consultation period following publication ran from March 19, 2023, to June 16, 2023, during which CFIA **gathered feedback from industry representatives**. This period was also an opportunity to gather comments on this regulatory amendment and its effects on the industry, operational activities, market access and consumer confidence.

* The amendment to the Federal Regulations remains at the draft stage, and adjustments will be made during the coming year: a second publication is anticipated in 2025.

CFIA received 1,299 comments, submitted by 778 people from:

- national, provincial and municipal associations representing breeders and operators of facilities through which livestock pass;
- companies and individuals;
- livestock importers and exporters;
- First Nation companies;
- from all three levels of government (federal, provincial/territorial and municipal).

Livestock traceability is essential to mitigate the risks and repercussions of disease outbreaks, and to protect public health. It is built on three pillars:



**PREMISES
IDENTIFICATION**



**ANIMAL
IDENTIFICATION**



**ANIMAL
MOVEMENTS**

Accurate, up-to-date, comprehensive and easily accessible information on the location, identity and movements of animals is needed to manage health issues and limit their impact on the industry, the national livestock herd, the economy, food safety and public health.

Québec's traceability system
is governed by two levels
of government

Canada 

Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)

[Health of Animals Regulations, - Part XV
\(Animal Identification\)](#)

Québec 

Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries
et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ)

[Regulation respecting the identification and
traceability of certain animals](#) (P-42, r. 7)

The table below provides an overview of some of the proposed regulatory changes, as well as any differences with the Québec regulations. Indeed, the *Regulation respecting the identification and traceability of certain animals* (P-42, r. 7) has long imposed stricter requirements than those in force in the rest of Canada, and these are fully integrated into the Québec traceability system. Among the proposed amendments to Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations* (Identification and Traceability), two of them will potentially result in significant changes to Québec's current system: the introduction of goats as a newly regulated species, and the obligation to declare the movement of farm animals.

Current Omissions (gaps)	Federal Regulatory Proposal	Situation in Québec
Not all species with diseases in common are subject to traceability requirements.	Goats and farmed cervids (such as deer) will be included amongst the regulated species.	Cervids are among the species already regulated in Québec. Goats are not regulated in Québec.
The time allowed to declare an event is too long.	Reduce the reporting period from 30 days to 7 days for all species.	In Québec, current reporting deadlines are already 7 days, with some exceptions.
Information on the geographical location of animal premises is limited.	Introduce a requirement for the identification of livestock premises via provincial premises number assignment (PID) programs, and a requirement for the declaration of this PID.	Attestra assigns a premises traceability number for species regulated in Québec (bovines, ovines and cervids) and for other species (bison, pork, goats).
Information on domestic livestock movements is limited.	Require declaration of movement by the receiving facility operator, including animal ID number (with a few exceptions) and the PID of shipping and receiving facilities. A document must accompany the animals being transported.	In Québec, the arrival of an animal on a farm must be declared within 7 days of its receipt, or before it leaves the farm, whichever comes first. The development of an electronic manifest is foreseen.

Other regulatory proposals that have been published in the [Canada Gazette - Part I](#) have little impact in Québec, or do not apply to the province due to requirements already in force.

In Québec, a communication campaign will be implemented to support stakeholders who will be affected by these changes.

Positive Repercussions for Stakeholders and Canadians

- Better protection of the health and safety of Canadian livestock and population;
- Improved food safety for consumers;
- Increased consumer confidence in Canadian meat products thanks to enhanced livestock traceability requirements;
- Reduced regulatory discrepancies and greater regulatory compatibility with provincial and territorial governments;
- Support for market continuity in the face of trade embargoes and cease-and-desist orders;
- Support in obtaining, expanding or maintaining market access by demonstrating Canada's improved livestock traceability system.

Next Steps

Over the next year, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) will communicate with the various stakeholders to review the elements of the regulatory proposal where changes can be made based on comments received during the consultation.

The changes will be communicated to stakeholders in the various livestock sectors, followed by official publication of the final regulatory text in the Canada Gazette, Part II. Publication is scheduled for 2025, after which a 12-month transition period will be allowed before the new regulations come into force.

Finally, Québec regulations will have to be harmonized, necessitating certain amendments to Part XV of the *Health of Animals Regulations*. In this context, MAPAQ is considering amending its *Regulation respecting the identification and traceability of certain animals*. The coming year will provide an opportunity for further reflection and consultation to ensure a smooth transition.

The Canada Gazette is published under the authority of the Statutory Instruments Act. It consists of three parts as described below:

Part I Material required by federal statute or regulation to be published in the Canada Gazette other than items identified for Part II and Part III below — Published every Saturday

Part II Statutory instruments (regulations) and other classes of statutory instruments

AntibiotiQC

A platform for monitoring antibiotic use in animal health in Québec

Development of the AntibiotiQC Platform

The *Animal Health Protection Act* also includes the *Regulation respecting medicinal premixes and medicinal foods for animals* ([chapter P-42, r. 10](#)), for which MAPAQ is responsible. MAPAQ has mandated Attestra to develop a digital platform for hosting and exploiting data from the system for monitoring antibiotic use in animal health, and to manage this platform, called AntibiotiQC, and maintain its operations.

AntibiotiQC

The AntibiotiQC platform is a solution for receiving and exploiting data on antibiotic sales and supplies in all animal sectors, whether for livestock, pets or recreational animals. The monitored data will be used to study the use of antibiotics in animal health in Québec, and to guide policies in the fight against antibiotic resistance.

Launched in January 2024, the platform will enable holders of permits for medicinal premixes and medicinal foods to transmit records of sales and supplies of these products within the framework of current regulations. The platform will eventually be able to receive antibiotic sales data from veterinary establishments, collected on a voluntary basis, and provide reports to livestock farmers and veterinary surgeons.

Financial assistance program

Records of sales and supplies of premixes and medicinal foods contain a very large volume of data. Automated transmission must therefore be favored and this implies the implementation of additional computer functionalities in the software used by licensees. Attestra has therefore set up a financial assistance program, with financial support from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation (MAPAQ), to help those wishing to make the necessary adjustments for transmitting their records via the online digital platform (AntibiotiQC). The program has been running since August 14, 2023, and will end on December 1, 2024.

This project has required the involvement of Attestra's various departments over the past year, whether in the development of the platform, the creation of communication tools, or in user support.



AntibiotiQC Platform

To access the platform, go to Quebec.ca and then click on the link to the **AntibiotiQC** platform, available in French only.



**As of March 31, 2024,
44,055 declarations had
been transmitted to the
AntibiotiQC platform.**

Managing the traceability system for excavated contaminated soil

The Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) is responsible for enforcing regulations concerning the traceability of excavated contaminated soil. As part of this Regulation ([chapter Q-2, r. 47.01](#)), adopted in July 2021, the MELCCFP has signed an agreement with Attestra for the development and management of the Traces Québec system, which also includes the development of the Traces Québec Transport solution. These tools are designed to manage and track traceability data for excavated contaminated soils.



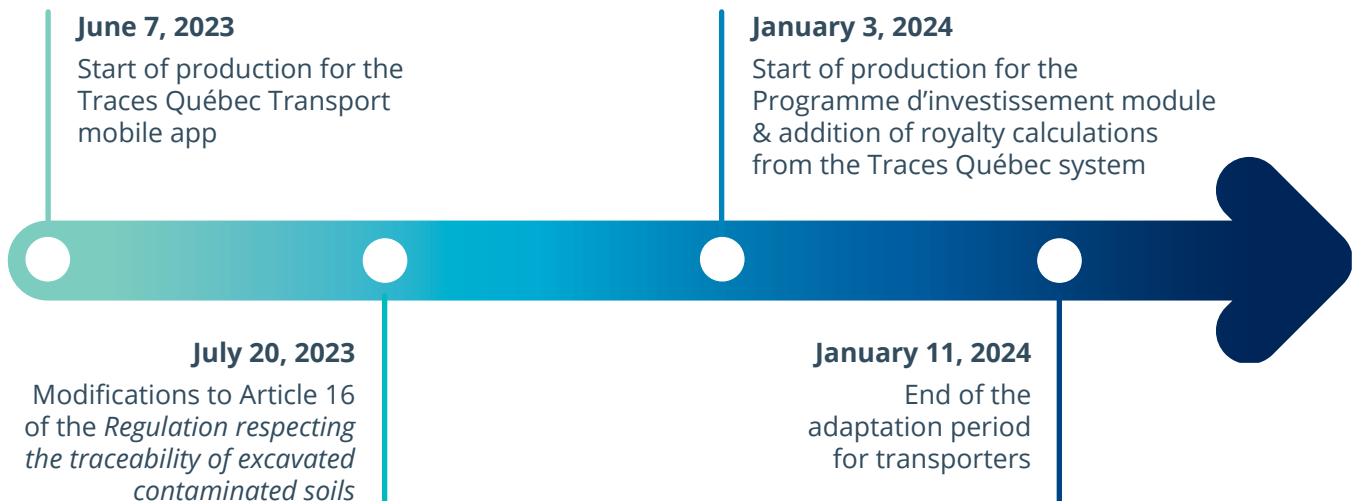
Traces Québec

An efficient, constantly evolving technological solution

Available online since September 2021, Traces Québec is the traceability system developed by Attestra to track contaminated soil excavated in Québec. With an intuitive web platform and mobile application, Traces Québec ensures a fluid and secure user experience. Since June 2023, the addition of Traces Québec Transport has strengthened this ecosystem by offering a mobile solution specially designed for transporters. This set of technologies is in constant evolution to integrate new functionalities and adapt to user needs, as well as to changing regulatory requirements in the environmental sector.

Highlights of the last 12-month period

Key achievements and regulatory developments between April 1, 2023, and March 31, 2024.



Technical Advisory Committee

As part of the integration and implementation of the Traces Québec system, the MELCCFP, in collaboration with Attestra, set up a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) representing the various stakeholders directly concerned by the *Regulation respecting the traceability of excavated contaminated soils*.

Established on July 12, 2021, the committee's mandate is to contribute to the continuous improvement of the Traces Québec system. Comprising 18 members from a wide range of backgrounds (associations, ministries, cities and organizations), the committee has, since its creation, brought together more than 247 participants and made relevant recommendations aimed at strengthening the efficiency and user-friendliness of the platform and mobile applications.

The initial mandate of the Technical Advisory Committee has been extended to March 31, 2025: this extension reflects its continuing importance in the development of Traces Québec.

To find out more about TAC member organizations and their mandates, visit attestra.com/en/traceability/contaminated-soil/technical-advisory-committee.

Attestra-MELCCFP partnership: listening to users' needs

Since its launch in 2021, Traces Québec has been constantly evolving thanks to the joint efforts of Attestra and MELCCFP to meet users' needs. Now that they have a better grasp of the system, users can make the most of the available data to optimize their project management.

Numerous user recommendations have been integrated into Traces Québec, notably to improve activity reports, introduce new functionalities, and implement additional options within the solution for receiving sites eligible for the MELCCFP investment program. In addition, the introduction of an application programming interface (API) now enables receiving sites to accelerate truck reception and transfer data such as load weight and weight ticket number.

These improvements demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing a solution suited as much as possible to the various needs of our users.

Traces Québec in statistics

Every day, Attestra provides ongoing support to Traces Québec users, diligently responding to all types of requests they may have. Operational statistics for the period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, reflect the results of this support.

Mobile Platforms

Traces Québec

iOS	10,218 units have been installed since the application went live.
Android	1,346 units have been installed since the application went live.

Traces Québec Transport

iOS	5,538 units have been installed since the application went live.
Android	2,548 units have been installed since the application went live.

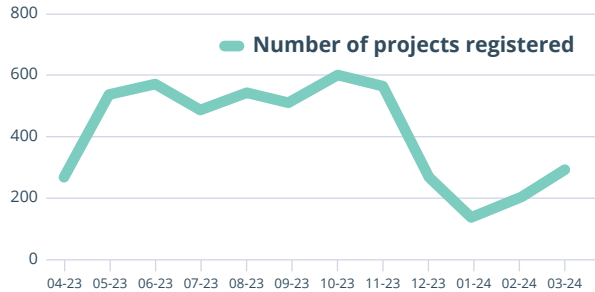
Number of participants by account type and registered users, as of March 31, 2024

Account types	
Receiving Sites	219
Certifiers	525
Stakeholders	1,628
Owners	2,977
Transporters	5,342
Number of registered users	
Users	22,357

Number of receiving sites, as of March 31, 2024

Number of receiving sites	
Total outside Québec	5
Total Québec	308
Types of receiving sites in Québec	
Transfer centres	2
Contaminated soil disposal sites (LESC)	6
Contaminated soil reclamation sites without statutory deed	10
Contaminated soil treatment centres	32
Contaminated soil disposal and reclamation sites (REIMR + mine tailings)	47
Contaminated soil reclamation sites with statutory deed	72
Contaminated soil storage sites	139

Projects registered in Traces Québec, from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024



Registered Projects

2023	April	289
	May	538
	June	570
	July	481
	August	546
	September	507
	October	601
	November	568
	December	286
2024	January	136
	February	195
	March	286

During the period from April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, the data collected by Traces Québec enabled the tracking of 7,201,962 tonnes of contaminated soil from their original sites.

Tools and Communications

Resources to inform and facilitate the user experience

As part of its regulatory mandates, Attestra is responsible for providing its users with the support and information they need to make the best possible use of its technological solutions. This requires ongoing work to develop new tools and update existing ones, ensuring that the right tools are available at all times. Over the past few years, the Attestra team has also focused on supporting users in a number of ways, offering user guides, tutorials and training and information sessions, as well as a number of communications aimed at keeping users up to date with the latest legislative and technological developments.

A great deal of effort has gone into creating, updating and distributing all these resources:

- 36 tutorial videos, made up as follows:
 - 22 tutorials for SimpliTRACE
 - 10 tutorials for Traces Québec
 - 4 tutorials for AntibiotiQC
- 25 user guides, including:
 - 10 guides for SimpliTRACE
 - 12 guides for Traces Québec
 - 3 guides for AntibiotiQC
- The organization of free training and information sessions for Traces Québec users.
- Sending of several communications, both by email and on our website, to keep our users informed of the latest news and updates.

These figures illustrate Attestra's commitment to providing comprehensive and up-to-date resources, guaranteeing the best possible user experience.

From April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024, all this work has resulted in:

- Over 18 days' cumulative viewing of tutorials.
- 16 training and information sessions for Traces Québec, attended by 434 participants.
- 7,741 downloads of our user guides, across all platforms.
- 11 communications, totalling 75,481 emails sent to SimpliTRACE and Traces Québec users.

Access the various tools

- ➔ [SimpliTRACE](#)
- ➔ [Traces Québec](#)
- ➔ [AntibiotiQC](#) (French only)

Diverse Projects and Partners

Attestra deploys its know-how to fulfill its regulatory mandates, but also to respond to other issues related to its fields of expertise. From April to March, the team is involved in a number of projects, both internal and external to the organization.

Dedicated to updating working methods or technological infrastructures, in-house projects reinforce Attestra's constant commitment to innovation and excellence.

At the same time, Attestra continues to work with organizations of national importance to promote traceability, and to remain attentive to their needs. Over the past 12 months, our teams have worked on a number of mandates aimed at upgrading the various platforms developed for our partners, as well as providing technical support, maintenance or hosting.

Three years ago, Attestra began implementing a plan to comply with the *Act to modernize legislative provisions as regards the protection of personal information (Bill 25)*, which modernizes privacy legislation in the private sector. Over the past 12 months, efforts have been made to continue strengthening security measures to ensure the protection of personal information collected by the organization and stored on the various platforms it manages. Both Attestra and its partners benefit from these improvements.



Governance

From the composition of the Board of Directors to the coordination and expertise of the various departments, Attestra's organizational structure is the very foundation of its smooth operations.

Attestra's seven-member Board of Directors includes two representatives from the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), four from the Union des producteurs agricoles (UPA) and one from La Financière agricole (FADQ). In terms of its composition and operation, the Board embodies the harmonious alliance between the sector's key entities. It provides guidance for the organization's general management and ensures sound management in full compliance with its commitments.



Paul Doyon
President

Sonia Simard
1st Vice-president

Normand Houle
2nd Vice-president

Stéphane Alary
Director

Pascal Forest
Director

Maurice Lamontagne
Director

Jean-Thomas Maltais
Director



General
Management



Customer Service
& Technical
Support



Projects &
Development



Information
Technology
Services



Administration
& Finance

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to the Ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ), La Financière agricole (FADQ), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre les changements climatiques, de la Faune et des Parcs (MELCCFP) for their support in the evolution of traceability in Québec. Their commitment is the cornerstone of our systems, enabling us to ensure their robustness and durability.

Thanks also to all those who are part of the Québec traceability ecosystem, including our partners, collaborators, producers, industry stakeholders, and our entire and invaluable team. Each of your contributions is immeasurable and has enabled us, for over 20 years now, to continue to proudly affirm that, at Attestra, we raise confidence.

