CLAIMS:

1. A method for processing a transaction via a transaction device including the steps of:

providing a supply chain management device comprising:

a product identifying module; and

an operator identifying module for identifying at least one operator handling a product, the operator identifying module comprising a biometric identifying component and a secondary identifying component;

(A) obtaining an identifier of the at least one operator handling the product;

(B) authenticating the at least one operator by using the at least one operator identifying module;

(C) obtaining an identifier of the product using the product identifying module associated with the transaction device;

(D) updating a record to associate the identifier of the at least one operator with the identifier of the product; and

cancelling the transaction if the step of obtaining the identifier of the product does not occur within a predefined transaction time interval that is negligible such that the identifier of the product is obtained approximately simultaneously with the step of obtaining the identifier of the at least one operator from both the biometric identifying component and the secondary identifying component

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the updating of the record includes storing at least one of:

the identifier of the at least one operator; and

the identifier of the product in at least one of a digital storage of the transaction device and a credential storage device.

3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising:

a step of transmitting data including at least one of:

the identifier of the at least one operator; and

the identifier of the product to a third party server computer for storage, wherein the data transmitted in operably encrypted.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein:

the step of obtaining an identifier of the at least one operator includes obtaining an identifier from a credential storage device of the operator.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein:

the step of authenticating the at least one operator includes:

obtaining biometric information from the at least one operator; and

comparing the obtained biometric information to biometric information stored on at least one of the transaction device and the credential storage device.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein:

the at least one operator is a supplier of the product and further wherein the method includes the steps of: obtaining an identifier of a recipient of the product; and, authenticating the recipient.

7. The method according to claim 6, wherein:

the step of obtaining the identifiers of the supplier and the product include obtaining within the predefined transaction time interval the identifier of the recipient.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein:

the step of obtaining the identifiers of the supplier and the product further includes:

obtaining an identifier of a transaction device, the identifier of the transaction device being at least one of:

a unique number associated to such transaction device; and

a specific location of such transaction device at which the transaction device is located when the transaction is processed, wherein the step of obtaining the identifiers is timed by a timing means.

9. The method according to claim 8, wherein:

the step of obtaining an identifier of a recipient includes obtaining an identifier from a credential storage device of the recipient; and

the step of authenticating the recipient includes obtaining biometric information from the recipient and comparing the obtained biometric information to biometric information stored on the credential storage device of the recipient.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein:

the step of obtaining an identifier of a transaction device includes obtaining an identifier from a credential storage device of the transaction devices; and

the step of authenticating the transaction device includes comparing the obtained transaction device identifier of a transaction device information stored on the credential storage device of the transaction devices.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein:

the step of updating a record includes associating the identifier of the product with at least one of the identifiers of the supplier, the recipient and the transaction device.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein:

the step of updating a record includes associating the identifier of the product with a status from a group of statuses including: product received; product dispensed; product sold; and product returned.

13. The method according to claim 12, wherein:

the step of obtaining an identifier of the product includes a step of authenticating the identifier of the product thereby to authenticate the product.

14. The method according to claim 13, further comprising:

a step of associating a successful transaction with the identifier of the product such that a downstream transaction is allowable only upon successful completion of an upstream transaction.

15. The method according to claim 14, further comprising:

a step of receiving diagnostic information relating to the recipient, wherein the diagnostic information is capable of being inputted by the at least one operator and for the received diagnostic information to be stored on the credential storage device of the recipient.

16. The method according to claim 15, wherein the step of receiving diagnostic information includes receiving such information from a credential storage device of the recipient.

17. The method according to claim 16 further comprising: based on the received diagnostic information, identifying a product to be provided to the recipient; and responsive to identifying the product, granting permission for release of the identified product.

18. The method according to claim 17 further comprising:

a step of determining whether the identified product is available; and: (i) if the identified product is available, granting permission for release of the identified product, and (ii) if the identified product is not available, identifying an alternative operator able to release the identified product.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the step of updating a record to associate the identifier of the at least one operator with the identifier of the product further includes

associating the identifier of the at least one operator with additional information, the additional information includes one or more of:

biometric information of the at least one operator, supplier and/or the recipient; a time at which the identifier of the product was obtained;

a time at which the identifier of the at least one of the at least one operator, supplier and the recipient was obtained;

diagnostic information; and

at least one of a time at which the at least one operator, supplier and/or the recipient was authenticated; the date and time of concluding the transaction; and the monetary amount associated with the transaction.

20. A method for processing transactions, the method conducted at a central server computer in communication with a number of third party server computers, comprising:

providing a supply chain management device comprising:

a product identifying module; and

an operator identifying module for identifying at least one operator handling a product, the operator identifying module comprising a biometric identifying component and a secondary identifying component;

receiving, from each third party server computer, as a product moves from one person or entity to another, data associated with the product, the data having been received at each third party server computer from a transaction device operated by an operator handling the product, the transaction device having: obtained an identifier of the operator; authenticated the operator; and obtained a product identifier of the product, wherein:

obtaining at least the identifier of the operator, using both the biometric component and the secondary identifying component, and the identifier of the product are obtainable within a predefined transaction time interval that is negligible such that the identifiers of the operator and the product are obtained approximately simultaneously, outside of which the transaction is operably cancelled; and

updating a record to associate the identifier of the operator and optionally additional information with the identifier of the product.

21. A system for processing a transaction, the system including a transaction device comprising:

an operator identifying module for obtaining an identifier of an operator handling a product;

an authentication component for authenticating the operator;

a product identifying component for obtaining an identifier of the product using the product identifying component;

a record updating component for updating a record to associate the identifier of the operator with the identifier of the product and optionally additional information; and

a timing component for timing a predefined transaction time interval within which at least the identifier of the operator and the identifier of the product must be operatively obtained substantially simultaneously, and outside of which the transaction is operably cancelled.

22. The system according to claim 21, wherein:

the operator identifying module includes a credential storage device receiving module and for obtaining an identifier of an operator to include obtaining an identifier of the operator from a credential storage device of the operator.

23. The system according to claim 22, wherein:

the authentication component includes a biometric capturing device;

authenticating the operator includes obtaining biometric information from the operator and comparing the obtained biometric information to biometric information stored on one or both of the transaction device and the credential storage device.

24. The system according to claim 23, wherein:

the product identifying component includes one or both of a barcode scanner and a radio-frequency identification (RFID) tag reader; and

the system authenticates the identifier of the product.

25. The system according to claim 24, wherein:

the transaction device includes a transmitting component for transmitting data including one or more of the identifier of the operator, the identifier of the product and additional information to a third party server computer for storage thereat.

26. The system according to claim 25, further comprising:

a server computer including:

a receiving component for receiving data from the transaction device;

a storing component for storing the received data; and

a synchronising component for synchronising the stored data with a central server computer.

27. The system according to claim 26, wherein:

the additional information includes one or more of:

biometric information of the operator, a supplier and/or a recipient;

a time at which the identifier of the product was obtained;

a time at which an identifier of the operator, supplier and/or the recipient was obtained; diagnostic information; a time at which the operator, a supplier and/or a recipient was authenticated; the date and time of concluding the transaction; and the monetary amount associated with the transaction.

28. A system for processing transactions comprising:

a central server computer in communication with a plurality of third party server computers, comprising:

a synchronising component for: receiving, from each third party server computer as a product moves from one person or entity to another, data associated with the product, the data having been received at each third party server computer from a transaction device operated by an operator handling the product, the transaction device having: obtained an identifier of the operator, authenticated the operator, and obtained a product identifier of the product, wherein:

at least the identifier of the operator and the identifier of the product are obtained within a predefined transaction time interval in which the identifiers are obtained approximately simultaneously, outside of which the transaction is operably cancelled; and

updating a record to associate the identifier of the operator and optionally additional information with the identifier of the product.

29. The system according to claim 28, wherein:

the additional information includes one or more of:

biometric information of the operator, a supplier and/or a recipient;

a time at which the identifier of the product was obtained;

a time at which an identifier of the operator, supplier and/or the recipient was obtained; diagnostic information; a time at which the operator, a supplier and/or a recipient was authenticated;

the date and time of concluding the transaction; and

the monetary amount associated with the transaction.

30. A transaction device including:

an operator identifying module for obtaining an identifier of an operator handling a product;

a product identifying component for obtaining an identifier of the product using the product identifying component;

a communications module for transmitting and receiving data for at least the purposes of authenticating the operator; and

a timing component for timing a predefined transaction time interval within which at least the identifier of the operator and the identifier of the product must be operatively obtained substantially simultaneously, and outside of which the transaction is operably cancelled.

31. The transaction device according to claim 30, wherein:

the operator identifying module is at least one biometric scanner for scanning a biometric of the operator, which operator may be one or both of a supplier and a recipient.

32. The transaction device according to claim 31, further comprising:

at least one secondary operator identifying module for obtaining a secondary identifier of an operator, the secondary operator identifying module being:

(i) a user input for inputting a unique supplier PIN and a unique recipient PIN;

(ii) a card reader for reading a unique supplier card and a unique recipient card; or

(iii) a RFID tag reader for reading a unique supplier tag and a unique recipient tag.

33. The transaction device according to claim 32, wherein: the device includes a pair of biometric scanners and a pair of: (i) card readers; or (ii) tag readers.

34. The transaction device according to claim 33, wherein: the product identifying component includes one or both of a barcode scanner and a RFID tag reader.

35. The transaction device according to claim 30, further comprising: a record updating component for updating a record to associate the identifier of the operator with the identifier of the product and optionally additional information.