

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS DIRECTIVE	5420.5	6/25/04
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**HOMELAND SECURITY THREAT CONDITION RESPONSE -
INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

I. PURPOSE

This directive details the procedures that the Food Safety and Inspection Service's Office of Food Security and Emergency Preparedness (FSIS, OFSEP) personnel will follow in the event of an Orange or Red Alert declaration by the Department of Homeland Security. In the event that an Orange or Red Alert is declared, OFSEP personnel are to follow the instructions in this directive for the duration of the declared heightened Alert.

II. [RESERVED]

III. [RESERVED]

IV. REFERENCES

FSIS Directive 5420.1, Rev. 1, Homeland Security Threat Condition Response – Food Security Verification Procedures

V. BACKGROUND

In 2002, the White House Office of Homeland Security established a Homeland Security Advisory System (HSAS) based on color to provide a comprehensive and effective means to disseminate information regarding the risk of terrorist acts to Federal, State, and local authorities and to the American people. A declaration of a Threat Condition Orange by the Department of Homeland Security indicates that there is a high

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risk of terrorist attacks. A declaration of Threat Condition Red reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. While the threat declaration may or may not involve the nation's food supply, it is imperative that such declarations be communicated effectively and expeditiously to all program areas within FSIS so that appropriate actions can be taken to respond to the threats and ensure the security of meat, poultry, and egg products.

VI. PROCEDURES

A. In the event of a declaration of **Threat Condition Orange or Red with no specific threat to the food and agriculture sector**, OFSEP will assume the following responsibilities:

1. Verify the change in the threat condition with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Office of Homeland Security.
2. Inform the FSIS Administrator of the change in threat condition.
3. Inform the senior executive leadership of all FSIS program areas of the change in threat condition.
4. Activate procedures to notify all FSIS employees of the change in threat level.
5. Implement procedures as per established protocols for the timely handling of sensitive, classified information between the USDA's Office of Homeland Security and FSIS from a variety of sources, including the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Central Intelligence Agency.
6. Coordinate with USDA's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to ensure coordinated exchange of information among related Federal food and agricultural agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Department of Defense.
7. Implement procedures as per established protocols to ensure a coordinated exchange of information with USDA's Office of Inspector General and Continuity of Operations (COOP) representatives.
8. Establish regular communication briefings between OFSEP and all program areas regarding food security monitoring and verification activities.
9. Place the FSIS Emergency Management Committee (EMC) on stand-by status.

10. Implement appropriate notification procedures when threat condition is lowered.

B. In the event of a declaration of **Threat Condition Orange or Red with a specific threat to the food and agricultural sector**, OFSEP, in addition to the responsibilities referred to under A above, will activate the EMC.

All questions related to this directive should be directed through normal supervisory channels.

/s/ Philip S. Derfler

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