

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

FSIS NOTICE	47-08	7/14/08
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FOOD DEFENSE SURVEY 2008

This Notice informs inspection program personnel that FSIS is conducting a third Food Defense survey through the Performance-Based Inspection System (PBIS) beginning August 1, 2008. FSIS is scheduling this survey to run for thirty days for inspection program personnel to gather data about an establishment's food defense plan. The survey data provide the Agency with information on the status of voluntary adoption of food defense plans by establishments. The August 2006 survey results established a 27% adoption rate. The November 2007 survey showed a small increase to a 31% adoption rate. FSIS expects that at least 90% of establishments will adopt functional food defense plans. If this goal is not achieved in the near future, the Agency will consider moving forward with rulemaking to mandate functional food defense plans.

There is no regulatory requirement for an establishment to develop a functional food defense plan; however, FSIS strongly encourages establishments to create and maintain one to minimize the risks of intentional contamination to food products. In addition, the business advantage for an establishment in having a functional food defense plan is that it will contribute to the protection of consumer health, provide additional process control in the establishment, and expedite the establishment's response to situation in which the safety of the meat or poultry or processed egg supply is directly threatened.

Based on feedback from the initial survey, FSIS is making two changes to the first question in the survey to ensure that it accurately measures whether the plant has a food defense plan. The first change is that FSIS has provided examples of other types of plans that an establishment may have in place that include food defense measures and that the Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) should consider when answering the question. Also, FSIS reworded the question to emphasize that the establishment only needs to make the plan available for the IIC to review on site, and that the establishment is not required to have copies for the IIC. The IIC should not remove the plan from the official premises.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 8/1/09

OPI: OPPD

FSIS is making guidance material available for developing a food defense plan on the FSIS Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Defense_&_Emergency_Response/Guidance_Materials/index.asp

FSIS is issuing this FSIS Food Defense Survey Notice at this time in order to give inspection program personnel advance notice that an upcoming important inspection activity is upcoming. A second FSIS Food Defense Survey Notice with more information will be sent before the actual survey begins on August 1, 2008.

Refer questions to Policy Development Division through askFSIS or at 1-800-233-3935 (Selecting #1, then #5 from the telephone menu).



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development