

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

FSIS NOTICE	72-09	10/15/09
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FOURTH FOOD DEFENSE PLAN SURVEY

I. PURPOSE

This notice announces the upcoming food defense plan survey, the fourth in a series, which will begin on December 1, 2009, and close on December 31, 2009. The survey will gather data about industry's voluntary adoption of food defense plans. Inspection Program Personnel (IPP) will receive the survey questions through the Performance-Based Inspection System (PBIS).

II. BACKGROUND

Survey results from the first survey, in August 2006, established a baseline adoption rate of food defense plans by industry of 27%. In the second survey, in November 2007, the survey showed an increase to a 31% adoption rate. The third survey, in August 2008, showed an increase to a 41% adoption rate. Generally, IPP have reported that almost all large establishments (i.e., those with 500 or more employees) have a functional food defense plan. However, IPP have found that most small and very small establishments (i.e., those with 10 or more employees and those with fewer than 10 employees or annual sales of less than \$2.5 million, respectively) do not have a functional food defense plan. FSIS wants to see at least 90% of all establishments adopting functional food defense plans. Once the results of this fourth survey are compiled, the Agency will use them to guide its outreach efforts and its consideration of whether to make rulemaking to require adoption and implementation of food defense plans a priority.

III. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY QUESTIONS

A. Between December 1 and December 31, IPP at all establishments will receive an alert from PBIS to complete the food defense survey. After receiving this alert, IPP are to follow the instructions below to answer questions about the establishment's food defense plan.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 11/1/2010

OPI: OPPD

B. The survey consists of four questions that require only Yes or No answers. IPP are to put responses to the survey in to the PBIS database. For this survey, FSIS will rely on establishment personnel's statements for answers to the questions. Also, establishments that have food defense plans are not required to provide a copy of the plan to the Agency.

C. The instructions on completing the survey can be accessed in the PBIS Version 5.1.10 User's Guide, Section 4-9 Survey, on page 48-49 by using the PBIS help menu.

1. Select the following from the PBIS pull down menu -File/Update/Establishment Surveys. After PBIS establishes an FSIS Intranet connection, a web-based Establishment Survey window will appear. Select the Food Defense Plan – 2009 from the dropdown list of options.
2. If the establishment does not have a written plan, select the radio button next to - NO in question number 1. End the survey according to number 4 below.
3. If the establishment has a written plan, select the radio button next to -YES in question number 1 and continue to answer all of the questions in the survey. The same process is used for questions number 2, 3, and 4.
4. When you have completed the survey, click the SUBMIT button to save the entries in PBIS. Click the EXIT button to close the Establishment Survey screen and return to PBIS.
5. IPP are to complete the food defense plan survey in lieu of performing one Food Defense Verification Procedure. IPP are to record a "U" for the procedure that was not performed.

D. Once IPP have completed the survey, she or he is to share the written answers with the establishment management and provide the management an opportunity to discuss or make changes to the answers before the IIC submits them.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

The period for completing this survey will be from December 1-31, 2009. ODIFP will analyze the responses submitted in PBIS after the survey period closes. It will analyze the data for trends in the status of industry's voluntary adoption of functional food defense plans and share the results with Agency senior management and the public.

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Policy Development Division through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935.



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