

## Food Defense Tools & Resources

### Tools & Training:

**General Food Defense Plan** — Created by FSIS to help small and very small plants easily adopt a functional food defense plan (also available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese).

**Food Defense Plan Builder** — A user-friendly software program that assists facilities with developing functional food defense plans.

**Food Defense & Recall Preparedness: A Scenario-Based Exercise Tool** — Can easily be used by establishments to test security measures and recall procedures, allowing establishments to maintain a functional food defense plan (can be completed in 1 hour).

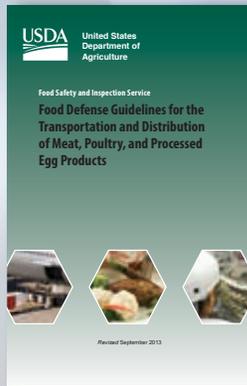
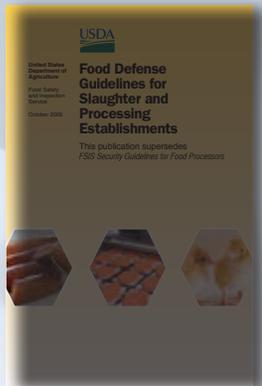
**Food Defense Risk Mitigation Tool** — Helps to identify applicable mitigation strategies.

**Food Defense 101** — Preparedness training against an intentional attack on the food supply.

**Carver + Shock Primer Software** — A tool for conducting vulnerability assessments.

### Guidance:

Food defense guidance is available for food processors, importers, transporters, distributors, and consumers (also available in Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese).



All tools and resources can be found at  
[www.fsis.usda.gov/FoodDefense](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FoodDefense).

## For Additional Questions or More Information:

**Small Plant Help Desk:**  
[Infosource@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Infosource@fsis.usda.gov)  
1-877-FSIS-HELP or 1-877-374-7435

**FSIS 24-hour emergency number:**  
1-866-395-9701

**FSIS Food Defense Assessment Staff:**  
[fooddefense@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fooddefense@fsis.usda.gov)



**USDA** United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
1-866-395-9701  
[fooddefense@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:fooddefense@fsis.usda.gov)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

# Food Defense in FSIS-Regulated Establishments



Food Safety and Inspection Service



## What Is Food Defense?

Food defense is the protection of food products from intentional contamination or adulteration where there is an intent to cause public health harm or economic disruption.

## How Does Food Defense Differ From Food Safety?

Food safety focuses on the protection of food products from *unintentional* adulteration, while food defense focuses on protection from *intentional* adulteration.

## Potential Impacts of an Attack on the Food Supply:

- Public health
- Economic
- Psychological

## Food Defense Plans

A food defense plan is a tool that helps an establishment identify measures to protect food and food processes from intentional harm.

Currently, food defense plans are voluntary for FSIS-regulated establishments.

Not only is it important for an establishment to have a food defense plan, but it is important for the plan to be *functional*. A functional food defense plan is:

- **Written/developed** – the plan is documented and signed.
- **Implemented** – preventive measures are implemented to ensure a base level of “common sense” security.
- **Tested** – security measures are regularly monitored.
- **Reviewed and maintained** – the plan is reviewed at least annually and revised as needed.



## Food Defense Plan Benefits:

A functional food defense plan may help to:

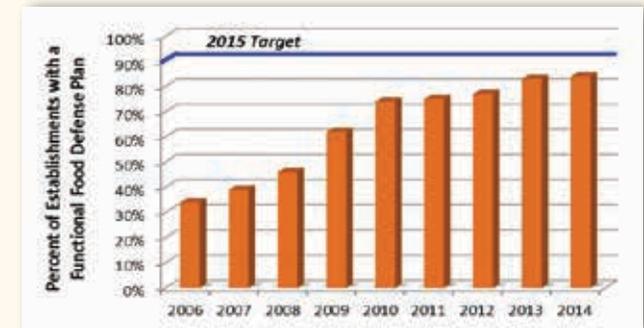
- Reduce risk of unsafe product and economic loss;
- Reduce theft;
- Reduce need for additional regulation on food defense; and
- Reduce company liability.

## Food Defense Plans & FSIS-Regulated Establishments

**USDA Goal:** Adoption of functional food defense plans within 90 percent of FSIS-regulated establishments by 2015.

**Annual Food Defense Plan Survey:** Adoption of functional food defense plans in FSIS-regulated establishments is measured via an annual food defense plan survey of FSIS inspection personnel.

There has been a continued positive trend in the adoption of functional food defense plans. As of 2014, 84 percent of FSIS-regulated establishments had a functional plan.



*\*The percentage of functional food defense plans in FSIS establishments has continued to increase since 2006.*

## Food Defense Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Do very small establishments benefit from having a food defense plan?**

**A:** Yes! All establishments, regardless of size, are susceptible to threats and therefore benefit from having a functional food defense plan.

**Q: My establishment has a written food defense plan. Is that good enough?**

**A:** While having a written food defense plan is a step in the right direction, FSIS recommends the adoption of a functional plan, which is also implemented, tested regularly, and reviewed and maintained at least annually.

**Q: Where can I find resources to help develop, implement, and exercise my functional food defense plan?**

**A:** Multiple tools have been developed to help an establishment adopt a functional food defense plan. Please see the “Food Defense Tools & Resources” section within this brochure for a list of available resources.

