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).

For Additional Questions or More Information:

Small Plant Help Desk: 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

All tools and resources can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/FoodDefense.
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.