



ALERT: The Basics

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Foodborne Illness From a Legal Perspective-
Lessons Learned



CFSAN

Food Defense Continuum

Food Defense is a term used to describe activities associated with protecting the nation's food supply from intentional contamination. The Food and Drug Administration has adopted 3 broad strategies that encompass its food defense activities:

Prevention > Response > Recovery





Food Defense Continuum

Prevention

- Increase awareness among federal, state, local and tribal governments and the private sector to better understand where the greatest vulnerabilities lie; and
- Develop effective protection strategies to shield the food supply from intentional contamination



Food Defense Continuum

Response

- Develop the capacity for a rapid coordinated response to a foodborne terrorist attack





Food Defense Continuum

Recovery

- Develop the capacity for a rapid coordinated recovery from a foodborne terrorist attack



Integrating Food Safety and Food Defense

- Efforts to integrate food safety and food defense led to a need for the development of tools to assist regulatory stakeholders, such as federal, state and local inspectors, with the task of raising food defense awareness in industry.



Integrating Food Safety and Food Defense



- This effort began with the development of FDA Guidance documents written for specific segments of the food industry.
- After the issuance of the guidance documents in 2003, it became clear that a shorter message would be useful to spark thought and discussion around food defense issues.



A.L.E.R.T.



How do I ALERT the operators of the establishments to make them more aware of Food Defense issues?



ALERT

In today's world it is important to be **ALERT** to protect your business.

A How do you **ASSURE** that the supplies and ingredients you use are from safe and secure sources?

L How do you **LOOK** after the security of the products and ingredients in your facility?

E What do you know about your **EMPLOYEES** and People coming in and out of your facility?

R Could you provide **REPORTS** about the security of your products while under your control?

T What do you do and whom do you notify if you have a **THREAT** or issue at your facility, including suspicious behavior?

Can you answer these questions?



See www.cfsan.fda.gov/alert for more information



CFSAN

FDA's ALERT Initiative

- Intended to raise awareness of food defense
- Applies to all aspects of the farm-to-table continuum
- Identifies 5 key food defense points:
 - Assure
 - Look
 - Employees
 - Report
 - Threat





How do you *Assure* that the supplies and ingredients you use are from safe and secure sources?

- Know your suppliers
- Encourage your suppliers to practice food defense measures
- Request locked and/or sealed vehicles, containers, or railcars
- Supervise off-loading of incoming materials



How do you *Look* after the security of the products and ingredients in your facility?

- Implement a system for handling products
- Track materials
- Store product labels in a secure location and destroy outdated or discarded product labels
- Limit access and inspect facilities
- Keep track of finished products
- Encourage your warehousing operations to practice food defense measures.





What do you know about your *Employees* and people coming in and out of your facility?

- Conduct background checks on staff
- Know who belongs in your facility
- Establish an identification system for employees
- Limit access by staff
- Prevent customer's access to critical areas of your facility



Could you provide *Reports* about the security of your products while under your control?

- Periodically evaluate the effectiveness of your security management system
- Perform random food defense inspections
- Establish and maintain records
- Evaluate lessons learned





What do you do and who do you notify if you have a *Threat* or issue at your facility, including suspicious behavior?

- Hold any product that you believe may have been affected
- Contact the Food and Drug Administration and local law enforcement as appropriate



CONCLUSION

- The nation's awareness of terrorism has been heightened and there is an increased focus on protecting the nation's food supply.
- It is everyone's responsibility to recognize food defense as an important issue and to get involved.
- Being aware of the threats, identifying the vulnerabilities and taking action to mitigate the risks are activities where federal, state, local and private industry stakeholders must continue to work.


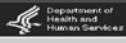


CONCLUSION

- FDA, along with its stakeholder partners, will continue to share the ALERT message and build complimentary pieces to help raise food defense awareness.
- We are encouraging all federal, state, local and private industry partners to consider ways that they can incorporate activities so that together, we ensure seamless integration of food defense across the food supply chain and enhance preparedness in the future.



US FDA/CFSAN - Food Defense and Terrorism

 **U.S. Food and Drug Administration**  Department of Health and Human Services

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Food Defense and Terrorism

A.L.E.R.T.

Highlights

- Summaries of Competitive Food Defense Research Reports, 2005 - June 2006
- Food Defense Awareness Webcast - March 29, 2006
- Food Defense Acronyms, Abbreviations and Definitions - March 28, 2006

Upcoming Events

- Nothing Currently Scheduled

Overview

FDA works with other government agencies and private sector organizations to help reduce the risk of tampering or other malicious, criminal, or terrorist actions on the food and cosmetic supply.

- **Food Defense Programs**
Food Emergency Response Network, Strategic Partnership Program - Agroterrorism
- **Training Materials and Announcements**
Training resources, upcoming courses, course registration
- **FDA Actions on Bioterrorism Legislation (Food Supply)**
(Bioterrorism Act of 2002)
 - Administrative Detention
 - Registration of Food Facilities
 - Establishment and Maintenance of Records
 - Prior Notice of Imported Food Shipments
- **Food and Cosmetic Security Preventive Measures Guidance**
- **Consumer Information**
FDA's counterterrorism role, Prior Notice policy (food gifts), food tampering, FAQs
- **Additional Information**
Information from FDA and Other Government Agencies

Food and Cosmetic Security Preventive Measures Guidance

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FDA/Center for Food Safety & Applied Nutrition

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Working to Keep Food and Cosmetics Safe and Promote Good Nutrition

For more information on ALERT, please visit
www.cfsan.fda.gov/alert

