What is Food Defense?

Food defense is the effort to protect food from intentional acts of adulteration where there is intent to cause public health harm and/or economic disruption. A recently published final rule by the Food and Drug Administration focuses on mitigation strategies to protect food against intentional adulteration where there is intent to cause wide scale public health harm. https://federalregister.gov/a/2016-12373

Highlighted Food Defense Tools and Resources

Food Defense 101 provides training in preparedness against an intentional attack against our food supply. The courses provide an understanding of and guidance for developing a food defense plan(s) based on a common sense approach. http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/ToolsEducationalMaterials/ucm353774.htm

Employees FIRST is an initiative that food industry managers can include in their ongoing employee food defense training programs. Employees FIRST educates front-line food industry workers from farm to table about the risk of intentional food contamination and the actions they can take to identify and reduce these risks. http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/ToolsEducationalMaterials/ucm295997.htm

FDA Food Defense Plan Builder is a user-friendly software program designed to assist owners and operators of food facilities with developing personalized food defense plans for their facilities. This user-friendly tool harnesses existing FDA tools, guidance, and resources for food defense into one single application. The Food Defense Plan Builder guides the user through the following sections: Company Information; Broad Mitigation Strategies; Vulnerability Assessment; Focused Mitigation Strategies; Emergency Contacts; Action Plan; and Supporting Documents. http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/ToolsEducationalMaterials/ucm349888.htm

Food Related Emergency Exercise Bundle (FREE-B) is a compilation of scenarios based on both intentional and unintentional food contamination events. It is designed with the intention of assisting government regulatory and public health agencies in assessing existing food emergency response plans, protocols and procedures that may be in place, or that they are in the process of revising or even developing. http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/ToolsEducationalMaterials/ucm295902.htm

Food Defense and Recall Preparedness: A Scenario-Based Exercise Tool: This scenario-based exercise tool highlights the importance of having a voluntary functional food defense plan and written recall procedures. http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-defense-defense-and-emergency-response

FSIS Food Defense Risk Mitigation Tool: This online tool is part of an ongoing effort by FSIS to help protect the nation's supply of meat, poultry, and egg products from intentional contamination. During vulnerability assessments conducted jointly with FSIS, industry representatives suggested that a searchable, user-friendly tool was needed to facilitate identification and selection of applicable mitigation strategies (i.e., countermeasures). http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-defense-defense-and-emergency-response/preparation-and-prevention/guidance-documents/risk-mitigation-tool/ct_index

Food Defense Mitigation Strategies Database (FDMSD) is a tool designed to assist owners, operators or agents in charge of companies that produce, process, store, package, distribute, and/or transport food with identifying preventive measures to protect the food against intentional adulteration. The FDMSD provides a range of mitigation strategies for individuals to consider implementing at points, steps or procedures to minimize the vulnerability to an intentional attack. http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodDefense/ToolsEducationalMaterials/ucm295898.htm

Additional Resources

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Food Defense and Emergency Response website: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FoodDefense

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Defense website: http://www.fda.gov/food/fooddefense/

Guidance for Industry: Retail Food Stores and Food Service Establishments: Food Security Preventive Measures Guidance (2007) - http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/GuidanceDocumentsRegulatoryInformation/ucm082751.htm

"If You See Something, Say Something" Campaign: http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Food/FoodDefense/UCM245306.pdf (English Version)

Active Shooter Preparedness: http://www.dhs.gov/active-shooter-preparedness

Commercial Facilities Resources: http://www.dhs.gov/commercial-facilities-resources

Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (IED) Training & Awareness: http://www.dhs.gov/bombing-prevention-training