Transportation and Food Defense: 
*Keeping America’s Food Safe*

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Overview

- Who is FSIS/OFDER?
- Transportation: A Vulnerability
- FSIS Initiatives
- Be Aware
- Conclusions
Who is FSIS?

**Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)**

- Protect the safety and security of the meat, poultry and processed egg supply
- Protect public health AND economy
- Product worth $120 billion in annual sales or about 1/3 of U.S. consumer spending
- Done with 7600 inspectors and veterinary staff in approx 6000 plants and import stations every day
Who is OFDER?

- **Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response (OFDER)**
- **Established**--August 2002
- **Mission**: To coordinate and facilitate the agency’s homeland security activities to prevent, prepare for and respond to an intentional attack on the food supply and large scale emergencies
OFDER’s Goals for Food Defense

- Provide outreach and training
- Conduct vulnerability assessments
- Develop countermeasures
- Conduct surveillance
- Conduct research
- Manage food defense and food safety emergencies
- Facilitate FSIS’ “Continuity of Operations” during a crisis
Reasons to Attack the Food Supply

- Devastating public health consequences
  - Threat agents can cause severe illnesses and death
- Significant economic impacts
- Destabilize infrastructure
- Soft target
- Widespread fear
- Target specialized populations (children) and icons
Challenges to Protecting the Food Sector

- High production volumes and distributed widely in a short period of time

- Information on use of threat agents – available on the Internet

- Scientific knowledge and equipment - minimal and widely available

- Dependent upon transportation and other sectors
FSIS Food Defense-Transportation Initiatives

- Vulnerability Assessments
- Guidance Materials
- Outreach and Training
  - Seals on liquid egg tanker trucks
Vulnerability Assessments

- **Assessments in conjunction with US FDA, AMS, FNS and DOD**
  - Meat, poultry and egg products
  - Legally imported food/ Illegal imports/ MRE
  - Food service / National School Lunch Program

- **Strategic Partnership Program on Agroterrorism (SPPA)**
  - Initiative with industry and other govt. agencies (FDA, FBI, DHS, state and local) to do vulnerability assessments
  - Voluntary industry participation
Why Transportation?

- Vast and open system
- Less government regulation over food during transportation
- Greater potential for unobserved access to food products
- Less controlled environment so more difficult to implement safeguards
Why Transportation?

American Transportation Research Institute

- Food transit security survey, 2005
- Highest concerns:
  - Secure Parking (restaurants, overnight parking)
  - Personnel
  - Cargo contamination
- 85% believe contamination is moderate to low security threat
- Some security & awareness training
- Adoption of federal voluntary guidelines low
Countermeasures

- **Industry Prevention Strategies**
  - Physical Security
  - Personnel Security
  - Operational Security

- **FSIS Prevention Strategies**
  - Surveillance
  - Outreach/ training
  - Securing food chain
  - Changing process technologies

- **Detection Strategies**
  - Government inspection activities
  - Laboratory detection methods
Voluntary Guidance

- Food defense guidance for transporters and distributors
- General guidance for all modes
  - Specific modes
    - Aviation
    - Truck
    - Maritime
    - Rail
Examples of Industry Countermeasures

Security Plan:
• Assess Vulnerabilities
• Develop & Implement Procedures
• Emergency Operations
• Train & Test
Examples of Industry Countermeasures

- Enhance cargo security:
  - Use tamper-evident seals on all trucks, tankers and shipping containers
  - Screen truck drivers
    - background investigations
    - train to raise food defense awareness

- Ensure proper tracking of movement of product and ingredients from suppliers & shippers
Why Implement Measures?

- Provides value-added component to product
- Deters theft and tampering
- Maintains greater control over product
- Protects public health
- Increases public and customer confidence, including trading partners
- Possibly reduces insurance and freight rates
DOT Food Defense Training

- **Sanitary Food Transportation Act of 2005**
  - FSIS & FDA will work with DOT to develop training for transportation inspectors:
    - Recognize suspected incidents of contamination or adulteration during safety inspections
    - Report incidents to FSIS (will notify FDA)
    - Commercial Motor Vehicle & Rail Safety Inspections

- **Examples:**
  - Seal broken/boxes opened/sealing tape cut
  - No USDA mark of inspection on container/packaging
  - Food being shipped with chemicals, pesticides, fertilizer
  - Labeling in foreign language only
Michigan Project

- Jan. 2006-MI Dept. of Agriculture initiative started
- Assess safety and security of food in transit in interstate commerce
- Multiple state and federal agencies involved
- Found numerous food safety violations
- Locks and seals not widely used
Be Aware

Drivers should:

- Secure trailer/container while en route, including food stops and overnight stays
- Be aware of someone expressing unusual interest in type of cargo
- Avoid low-lit areas
- Have procedures to follow when trailer is found unlocked and product appears to have been tampered with (boxes open, tape cut, seal broken)
- Report unusual circumstances to appropriate authorities, such as being followed
Food Defense Principles

- Understand what needs to be protected
- Apply the highest security to the most critical components
- Employ a layered approach
- Reduce risk to an acceptable level
- Have strong management support
Future Opportunities

- Develop food defense awareness training program for trucking industry/drivers

- Conduct transportation vulnerability assessment in early-2009

- Enhance outreach with food transportation sector
Conclusions

- Transportation is a critical vulnerable point in the food supply chain

- Individuals in transportation sector need to have increased awareness of the threat of intentional, as well as unintentional, contamination of the food supply

- Guidance materials on food defense for transportation industry

- Partnering with transportation sector will help ensure public health through protection of the food supply
Contact Information

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