

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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<b>FSIS NOTICE</b>	48-08	7/30/08
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**THIRD FOOD DEFENSE PLAN SURVEY**

**I. PURPOSE**

This notice is about the upcoming food defense plan survey that was announced in [FSIS Notice 47-08](#), issued on 7/14/08. FSIS will conduct this survey, the third in a series, beginning August 1, 2008, and closing on August 30, 2008. The survey will gather data about industries' voluntary adoption of functional food defense plans. Survey results from the first survey, in August 2006, established a baseline adoption rate of 27%. In the second survey, in November 2007, the survey showed an increase to a 31% adoption rate. FSIS would like to see at least 90% of establishments adopting food defense plans.

Once the results of this survey are compiled, the Agency will use them to guide its outreach efforts and its consideration of whether to do rulemaking to require functional food defense plans.

Inspection program personnel (IPP) will receive the survey questions through the Performance-Based Inspection System (PBIS). This notice provides instructions to IPP on how to complete the questions in the survey and describes how FSIS will analyze the data received from the results.

**II. INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THE SURVEY QUESTIONS**

In August, IPP will receive an alert from PBIS to complete the food defense survey. After receiving this alert, IPP are to follow the instructions below to answer questions about the establishment's food defense plan.

The first question directs the IIC to ask establishment management whether it has a written food defense plan, and if it does, whether the plan is available for viewing. The question makes clear, however, that the establishment is not required to provide a plan. If the establishment does provide a plan, it is not to be removed from the premises nor copied. An establishment's food defense plan is to be treated as confidential by the IIC.

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 8/1/09

**OPI:** OPPD

The first question also advises the IIC that it is possible for food defense measures in an establishment to be in several different operational plans and not limited to the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the Sanitation SOP, or a specific food defense plan.

If the establishment management makes available the operational plans that contain the food defense measures and shows the IIC where the measures are located, the food defense measures in these plans should be used, by the IPP, when answering the survey questions.

**NOTE:** You should base your response to the questions on the establishment's written food defense plan if the plan is volunteered by the establishment. Some survey questions may be difficult to answer even upon reviewing the written plan. If you cannot determine what the answer is, select the radio button next to the response labeled "UNKNOWN."

The instructions on completing the survey can be accessed in the PBIS Version 5.1.8 User's Guide, Section 2-15 Survey, on page 49-50 by using the PBIS help menu.

1. To access the survey, select the following from the PBIS pull down menu - File/Update/Establishment Surveys. After PBIS establishes an FSIS intranet connection, a web-based Establishment Survey window will appear. Select the Food Defense Plan - 2008 from the dropdown list of options.
2. If the establishment does not have a written plan, select the radio button next to -NO in question number 1. End the survey according to number 4 below.
3. If the establishment has a written plan, select the radio button next to -YES in question number 1 and continue to answer all of the questions in the survey.
4. When you have completed the survey, click the SUBMIT button to save the entries in PBIS. Click the EXIT button to close the Establishment Survey screen and return to PBIS.
5. The food defense plan survey is to be completed in lieu of performing a Food Defense Verification Procedure for the day. You are to record a "U" for the procedure that was not performed.

**NOTE:** IPP can share the questions and his/her responses with the establishment. FSIS is making available guidance material for developing a food defense plan on the FSIS website at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Food\\_Defense\\_&\\_Emergency\\_Response/Guidance\\_Materials/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Defense_&_Emergency_Response/Guidance_Materials/index.asp).

### III. ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

The period for completing this survey will be from August 1 – 30, 2008. The Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response will analyze the responses submitted in PBIS after the survey period closes. OFDER will analyze the data for trends in the status of industry's voluntary adoption of functional food defense plans and share the results with Agency senior management and the public.

Refer questions to Policy Development Division through askFSIS or at 1-800-233-3935 (selecting # 1, then #5 from the telephone menu).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Philip S. DeFina". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development