



Memorandum

Date: March 31, 2003

To: All Local Health Departments
Attn: Health Officer/Director of Environmental Health/Chief Sanitarian
MDA Supervisors

CC: K. Fedder
T. Crook

From: John Tilden, Manager
Food Safety Planning and Response Unit

Subject: Food Security

In light of current events, there exists an elevated risk of terrorist activity that may target various sectors of our nation's infrastructure, e.g. food supply, water supply, etc. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has begun developing guidance documents and educational resources to help those industries begin to develop security strategies to better protect themselves. In response, the Michigan Department of Agriculture has developed the Food Security News, which references many of the FDA's resources, as well as providing general guidance on security issues. Please find the attached document includes a reference link to an FDA draft guidance document on food security targeted at retail food stores and food service establishments.

The Food Security News document directs industry to contact their local health department or MDA staff with general questions; however, it is understood by both the FDA and MDA that the regulatory community is not expected to be able to provide expert advice to its constituents and should direct specific inquiries on security to experts in that particular field. It is expected that MDA/LHD workgroups will be able to address the need for more specific guidance in the future. In the meantime, it is MDA's intent to provide this document and send to local health departments along with the food licenses, to distribute to industry as a basic tool that can be tailored to their needs.

Also enclosed you will find the following documents:

PowerPoint presentation: Food Security Summary
PowerPoint FDA broadcast 3/13/03 "**Product Security and Integrity Guidance:
Roles and Responsibilities**"
Notes on FDA Broadcast 3/13/03

These documents are resources that can be used to educate regulatory staff on food security issues. It is not necessary to distribute this additional information to industry, however, regulatory staff may use it as it sees fit. It is apparent upon review of these materials that the information in many cases does not address specific issues, so any questions may be directed to John Tilden at (517) 373-9726.

The following websites may provide food security guidance:

Guidance from Government:

<http://www.foodsafety.gov/~fsg/bioterr.html>

Government food security links

<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fterr.html>

FDA guidance on food safety and terrorism

<http://www.nfpa-food.org/members/science/guidetofoodsafetyandsecurity.pdf>

DHHS-FDA-CFSAN Food Safety and Security: Operational Risk Management Systems Approach, Nov. 2001

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/topics/SecurityGuide.pdf>

FSIS Security Guidelines for Food Processors (PDF brochure)

http://204.211.89.92/food_survey/

North Carolina Dept. of Environment and Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Health Food Security Preventative Measures Guidance for Food Establishment Operations

<http://www.vdacs.state.va.us/foodsafety/pdffiles/fsguide.pdf>

State of Virginia's food security guide (PDF)

<http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/fdb/HTML/Food/Education%20Unit/ORM/Introduction.htm>

California Dept. of Health Services Food Security Self Audit and Operational Risk Management guidelines

<http://www.vdacs.state.va.us/foodsafety/questions.html>

Virginia Dept. of Health Questions & Answers page on food security, aimed at retail and foodservice managers

<http://foodsafety.cas.psu.edu/Bioterror.html>

Penn State list of food biosecurity resources

Guidance from Industry Groups:

<http://www.restaurant.org/government/issues/foodsecurity.cfm>

National Restaurant Association's food security page.

<http://www.fmi.org/ISAC/>

Food Marketing Institute's Food Industry Information Sharing and Analysis Center. Site aimed to help food industry identify, reduce and report vulnerabilities to malicious attack.

<http://www.victoriapacking.com/fdainfo.html>

A packing company's page on food security.

Guidance from Other Organizations:

http://www.who.int/fsf/Documents/terrorism_and_food_en.pdf

World Health Organization's Food Safety Issues: Terrorist Threats to Food- Guidance for Establishing and Strengthening Prevention and Response Systems

<http://www.aibinternational.com/audits/foodsafety/foodsecurityaudits/foodsecurityaudit.pdf>

Draft Food Security Evaluation forms- AIB International