USDA recently issued a document entitled, "FSIS Security Guidelines for Food Processors," which is to assist plants in identifying ways to strengthen biosecurity protection. The preface indicates that this document will be provided to USDA field personnel to help them provide advice to plants, and further states that “inspectors will not mandate adoption of any guideline.” The full document is available at [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov), and further information is available from the USDA Technical Service Center at 1-800-233-3935. Below is a synopsis of some of the key areas addressed in the FSIS security guidelines.

**Food Security Plan Management**  
Appoint food security team and coordinator  
Establish corrective actions for any case of product tampering  
Incorporate product tampering as part of recall program & assess recall procedures  
Establish procedures for notifying law enforcement & Homeland Security officials

**Outside Security**  
Establish and/or verify security of plant boundaries & entrances  
Secure all other access points, including vents, trailers, bulk tanks, railcars, etc.

**Inside Security**  
Clearly identify & manage restricted areas of the plant (e.g. processing areas)  
Verify schematics of plant layout  
Insure emergency alert system is operational  
Restrict & control access to central controls for HVAC, water, electricity & gas  
Use effective passwords, firewalls & antivirus software to protect computer systems

**Slaughter and Processing Security**  
Utilize effective back- & forward-tracking system for all raw materials & ingredients  
Evaluate all returned product for evidence of tampering  
Clearly identify all employees & their specific function (area of plant)  
Secure & inventory all storage facilities, particularly those for hazardous materials

**Shipping and Receiving Security**  
Use tamper-evident packaging  
Secure trailers, railcars, etc.  
Establish system that requires advance notification of all shipments into establishment

**Personnel Security**  
Verify system used to identify & recognize current plant employees  
Conduct background checks on new hires  
Enforce policy on what personal items are allowed in the plant