



# Worthwhile Operational Guidelines & Suggestions

BROILER PROCESSING TIMELY INFORMATION - JUNE 2002

## SECURITY IN THE POULTRY PROCESSING PLANT

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



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