Safe and Secure Transportation of Food

What’s Your Role?

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  Compliance and Investigations Division (CID)

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
What roles do the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) motor vehicle and rail safety inspectors play in food defense?

As the Sanitary Food Transportation Act of 2005 states, DOT motor vehicle and rail safety inspectors will observe shipments of food products for signs of potential contamination during routine inspections and report concerns to the Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) based on the product.

Please contact the FSIS office in your region immediately if you see ANY of the following:

- Meat, poultry, or processed egg products that do not have a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) logo or any product labeling (except for Canadian products)
- Meat, poultry, processed egg products, and food products that are labeled in a foreign language only – the product may be smuggled
- Food emitting a spoiled odor or spillage, such as juices, blood, etc., in the cargo area or from bulk transport vehicles
- Perishable food in cargo area and inoperable refrigeration unit
- Discoloration of liquid food, such as egg products, milk, etc.
- Foods being shipped with chemicals, fertilizer, pesticides, etc.
- Evidence of product tampering, such as a broken seal and cut tape/straps on box(es)
- Evidence of back-hauling

INFORMATION TO REPORT TO FSIS

The contact information (phone message and/or e-mail) to FSIS should cover as many of the following details as possible:

- Date, time, and location of stop
- Name of transport carrier
- License tag number
- Type of food product and quantity
- Specific problem identified
- Destination of product
- Name and contact information of DOT official making the stop
- Send a copy of the shipping papers (product invoice, bill of lading, etc.)
- Name and address of cosignee (recipient of goods)
- A photo of the violation for documentation