

BIO-SECURITY IN THE HORTICULTURE SECTOR

K.A.P. SESSION Nov.
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What Is It?

- **The events of September 11, 2001 have made us aware that our food and water supply could be prone to tampering.**
- **Efforts are now being made to help ensure that no produce is spoiled by anyone with the intent to hurt or gravely endanger the lives of others.**
- **Several policies have been developed to minimize the possibility of visitors contaminating farms/processing plants/premises both intentionally and unintentionally.**



IDENTIFICATION

- **Many farms and facilities now require I.D.**
- **Measures are being taken to ensure that every visitor be identified:**
 - through a pre-arranged appointment**
 - card identification/vendor I.D./ photo I.D.**
 - visitors/contractors are escorted or location is known.**



Procedures

- **Written policies/SOP's are in place in many facilities regarding: 1) action to be taken if sufficient identity is not secured, 2) procedures for removal of unwanted visitors, 3) authorized access areas.**
- **Employees are been trained on the policy and given enforcement responsibilities.**



What To Look For

- **Signs are in place at many farms and sheds outlining restricted access areas, where visitors must sign-in and where a company escort is required.**
- **Employee training is the key to ensuring that policies in place are followed and procedures are understood.**



What Do We Do?

- **Awareness**

- ◆ **Recognize suspicious activities**

- **People where they should not be.**
- **Unusual behavior**

- **Reporting**

- ◆ **Unauthorized access**

- **Maintain cargo integrity**
- **Address strangers**



Awareness

- **Take notice of anyone acting strangely or seeming nervous.**
- **Take notice of people entering restricted access areas when you know they have no business being there.**
- **Take notice of people wandering off from their work station alone (other than breaks and lunch).**



Reporting

- **Report to supervisors anyone who is entering unauthorized access areas.**
- **Report any evidence of tampering to packages, pallets, cargo areas or equipment.**
- **If you see strangers walking around alone, ask them if you can help them.**



Security Controls

- **Restricted access areas (eg.- maintenance room, ingredients supply, coolers, compressor room, computer room) are places where contamination hazards are identified and should be monitored.**
- **These areas usually are off bounds to all unauthorized personnel and contractors (who must be accompanied by staff).**



Security Controls

- **All paints, oils and other non-food grade products must be stored in the locked cabinets/rooms with only authorized access.**
- **Only authorized employees will be permitted to handle sanitation equipment and bleach mixtures.**



Security Controls

- **Personal items, laptop bags, etc., should only be brought into designated areas.**
- **Do not take items into restricted access areas unless approved.**
- **Any liquids or solids in containers that are been brought into the facility must have an identifying label.**
- **Avoid bringing in breakable items like glass bottles, test tubes, etc.**



Truck Drivers

- **Truck Drivers must remain with their trucks or in a designated area, if waiting for loading.**
- **Drivers must monitor what is going into the cargo area of their truck.**
- **Upon arrival, all drivers must have I.D. available, sign in with the shipping office or designated loading area. They should sign their name, company and arrival time.**



Cargo Inspection

- **All trailers are inspected for dirt, odors, damage or any unsuitable condition.**
- **All suspicious materials, smells or evidence of tampering must be immediately reported.**
- **If there is a problem with the trailer, it should be refused and not loaded.**
- **Common sense should prevail!**



Security Controls

- **All shipping and receiving doors should be closed and locked when no trailer is in place for loading.**
- **The outside overhead doors, man-doors, windows, should be locked (& armed?) after hours.**
- **Chemical & propane sheds should always be locked when not in use. Signs must also be in place to ensure these buildings are strictly prohibited to only authorized personnel.**



About Trailer Seals...

- **All export trucks will be using seals to secure loads. All seals must be inspected prior to use.**
- **Seals must meet or exceed the current PAS ISO 17712 compliancy for high security seals (the standard in place by the Dept. of Homeland Security).**
- **If the trailer seal shows signs of tampering or is defective, the seal number must be recorded on a seal log and the seal must be securely disposed of.**



In Addition...

- **Ensure that vehicles are parked in the designated area for visitors, contractors, service personnel, etc. (not adjacent to shipping receiving, product handling areas).**
- **Be alert to suspicious items activities upon arrival or during your visit to the premises.**