

Preventing and Governing Deliberate Contamination in the Food Supply Chain —Case Studies of Practices in the US, the EU and International Organizations

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Abstract

This paper discusses current issues in the global food supply chain (FSC). More specifically, it focuses on why it is difficult to prevent deliberate, criminal contamination in downstream sections of the FSC, yet only limited harm is done to consumers. The paper also investigates why it is more feasible to hamper the food contamination in the upstream of FSC while the adverse effect could be serious given the effective criminal behavior. Observing the practices of food safety governance in the US, the EU and international organizations (the WHO in particular), the key point in preventing deliberate contamination should be the management of ‘threats.’ It is worth noting that threat assessment and critical control points (TACCP), as an approach to governing food safety, is certainly a considerable alternative. Thanks to the irreversible structures and trends associated with global food trade liberalization, current risks of food contamination from various sources will by no means fade away. Given this, efforts to establish an institution based on the concept of acceptable risk for preventing threats while managing the spillover effects of damages are a pragmatic means of defending against deliberate food-contamination.

Key Words: Food Safety, Food Supply Chain, Food Terrorism, Deliberate Food Contamination, TACCP