

Food Fraud Prevention: The Role of Super Controllers

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INTRODUCTION: Food fraud, including the subcategory of economically motivated adulteration, is a global problem that can have devastating economic effects and poses considerable risks to public health, safety, and food security. On January 1, 2018 the Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) Food Fraud Requirements went into effect making organizations accountable for food fraud prevention. In order for a company to be GFSI compliant they must perform a food fraud vulnerability assessment and have a control plan in place.

PURPOSE: A key component of the food fraud vulnerability assessment is an understanding of the fraud opportunity. This article proposes that routine activities theory provides a framework for understanding the food fraud phenomenon, and reviews the basic tenets and concept of the theory.

METHODS: A review of the existing criminological literature that addresses food fraud, with special attention on the theoretical perspectives drawn from rational choice theory and Situational Crime Prevention were used in the preparation of this article.

RESULTS: The presentation concludes with a discussion on how super controllers and the routine activities framework will enhance our understanding of food fraud and identifies new avenues for research.

DISCUSSION: Additionally, the article explores how super controllers, the actors that create incentives for controllers (handlers, managers, guardians), prevent food fraud. Since the behaviors of controllers can be influenced by super controllers, the role of super controllers in food fraud prevention is significant.

Keywords: Food Fraud, Crime Prevention, Super Controllers