



# ***Food fraud vulnerability assessment***

Free online tool helps  
food companies fight fraud  
to protect consumers

# The war on food fraud

**Free online tool helps food companies fight fraud to protect consumers.**

Food fraud is a growing concern. Recent food fraud incidents have increased the need to protect consumers by strengthening the food industry's ability to detect and combat fraud across supply chains.

The risks have never been higher. While food fraud is not new, the motivation to adulterate or counterfeit food for financial gain is growing and a new solution is needed. Current food safety management systems are not always designed for fraud detection or mitigation, but new food safety guidelines require it.


That is why SSAFE has collaborated with PwC to create a food fraud vulnerability assessment that you can use free-of-charge to help identify your vulnerabilities to food fraud threats.

This is an industry-led solution that supports the Consumer Goods Forum's Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) requirements. SSAFE developed the assessment with PwC, Wageningen University, VU University Amsterdam and in consultation with food industry leaders around the world to help put you in a stronger position to fight fraud.

## **Want to assess your vulnerability to food fraud?**

Go to [www.ssafe-food.org](http://www.ssafe-food.org) now to download the assessment in Excel or online at [www.pwc.com/foodfraud](http://www.pwc.com/foodfraud). The assessment will be available on the Apple App Store or Google Play from January 2016.

Begin your confidential, anonymous and free assessment of your food fraud vulnerabilities today.



***“As a non-profit organisation SSAFE believes that protecting consumers is vital. And by developing this free tool we hope to reduce fraudulent activity that adulterates food for economic gain.”***

Quincy Lissaur, SSAFE



# *What you don't know can hurt you*

Companies are losing money and customers are losing faith. Food fraud is estimated to cost the global food industry US\$30 to \$40 billion every year<sup>1</sup>.

But beyond the economic cost, food fraud can harm public health and damage brands. Recent food fraud incidents, such as horse meat being passed off as minced beef in Europe and melamine being added to dairy products in China, have increased the urgency for the food industry to take action.

Globalisation and increasingly complex supply chains are creating huge opportunities and rewards for fraudsters. The collision of megatrends – particularly climate change, resource scarcity, urbanisation and demographic change – are increasing vulnerabilities and making it easier to profit from fraud. Today, even the most basic foods can involve huge numbers of suppliers around the world.

Small wonder, then, that food fraud is increasing.

In response GFSI is adding two new requirements to its guidance document to support companies in reducing the risks from food fraud to their own organisation and consumers. By requiring companies to assess their vulnerability to food fraud and develop control plans to reduce their vulnerabilities, fraud mitigation will become an integral part of food safety management systems and a company's enterprise risk management framework.

Our food fraud vulnerability assessment is purpose built to help companies identify areas of vulnerability and meet the requirements of all GFSI recognised certification schemes as well as several regulatory authorities around the world.

It's a great place to start in identifying your vulnerabilities and planning your mitigation efforts.



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John Spink, Michigan State University

<sup>1</sup> John Spink, Michigan State University, 2014.

# Taking action to fight food fraud

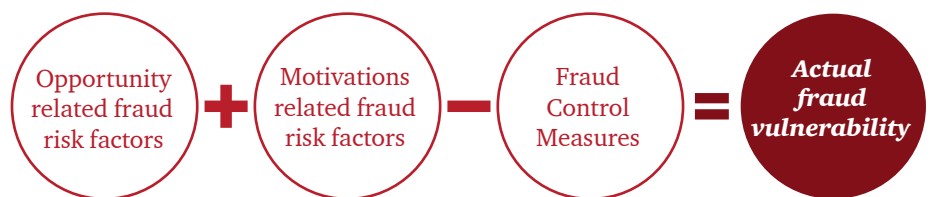
*Ensuring food is safely produced, transported and consumed is a shared responsibility – our assessment tool is just one part of that solution, by helping you get into the minds of fraudsters.*

It's a science-based tool, based on the study of criminal behaviour and decision making. Structured into two parts, the first part gets to the elements affecting criminal behaviour, while the second part relates to your company and its external relationships and environment (such as suppliers).

The assessment is easy to use and can be applied anywhere in the food supply chain, from animal feed and primary production to manufacturing and catering. It applies fraud theory to support the identification of vulnerabilities in the food supply chain.

There are three main elements – opportunities, motivations and absence of fraud control measures – that are believed to determine a company's vulnerability to food fraud, which make up the focus of our food fraud vulnerability assessment.

## Food fraud vulnerability assessment concept



'Opportunities' and 'motivations' are determined by the company's internal and external environment and are defined as the potential fraud risk factors. The potential risk resulting from these two elements can be mitigated by the third element; the 'fraud control measures' which companies implement to detect or prevent fraud.



***The assessment is easy to use and can be applied anywhere in the food supply chain, from animal feed and primary production to manufacturing and catering.***



## *Ready to get started? A few things you should know*

The tool is free-to-use for any company. Go online, download the app or use the spreadsheet to complete our 50 assessment questions.

You can use the tool to assess your vulnerability to fraud at an ingredient, product, brand, facility, country or company-wide level. If you want help deciding on where to apply the tool in your organisation, complete the decision tree.

The online tool is easy to use and you have the option to delegate responsibility for completing specific questions to different colleagues and departments to ensure its smooth completion by the right people, no matter how big or small your organisation.

Once completed, and depending on how you decided to apply the tool, the assessment will give you a profile of your company's potential food fraud vulnerability, which can form the basis for the development of interventions to mitigate identified vulnerabilities, as well as assessing potential risk to the enterprise.

The assessment doesn't give specific recommendations for mitigation techniques, but it does provide links to useful guidance on how and where to find solutions. It is not designed to detect fraud or predict future food fraud incidents. Yet by addressing identified vulnerabilities, fraudulent activities may be identified and give you the opportunity to stop criminal activity. You can use this tool as part of your food safety management system – remember fraud vulnerabilities change over time, so use it regularly.

At the end of the assessment you'll get a report that can be added to your food safety documentation, which includes spider web graphics that illustrate and identify potentially high-risk areas of vulnerability. The outputs will enable you to prepare mitigation strategies and techniques, including the introduction of additional controls for reducing your food fraud risks.

Responses to the assessment remain confidential to the company carrying out the assessment. It is important to note that respondents and their organisations are not identifiable from the online information recorded. All identifiable data is deleted at the end of your assessment, and all remaining data is aggregated to support general benchmarking and research to continue to improve the tool and provide additional feedback to the industry.

*You can use the tool to assess your vulnerability to fraud at an ingredient, product, brand, facility, country or company-wide level.*



# And a few things you may want to know

## Money, money, money motivates food fraudsters

*Food may be about taste and nutrition for most of us, but for fraudsters it's always about using food as a pawn to make easy money to maximise gains and minimise losses.*

In the graphic below are the many ways fraud is committed. So follow the money and you may catch a thief adulterating or counterfeiting your food.

We hope our tool helps inform you of vulnerabilities in your organisation so you can ensure fraudsters are less willing and less able to profit from food fraud at your expense.



### Dilution

Mixing a liquid ingredient of high value with a liquid of lower value.



### Substitution

Replacing an ingredient, or part of the product, of high value with another ingredient, or part of the product, of lower value.



### Concealment

Hiding the low quality of food ingredients or product.



### Mislabelling

Placing false claims on packaging for economic gain.



### Unapproved enhancement

Adding unknown and undeclared materials to food products to enhance the quality attributes.



### Counterfeiting

Copying the brand name, packaging concept, recipe, processing method etc. of food products for economic gain.



### Grey market production/theft/diversion

Sale of excess unreported product.

Note that 'grey market production/theft/diversion' is out of the scope for this assessment tool (but may be picked up anyway).

# Building resilience

## Fighting fraud from farm to fork

*The global food industry is calling time on food fraud, with the GFSI adding the following two requirements to its guidance document.*

### 1. Food fraud vulnerability assessment

Food organisations are required to assess and document their vulnerability to food fraud to identify potential risks and prioritise food fraud mitigation measures.

### 2. Food fraud mitigation plan

Food organisations are required to have a documented plan that specifies how it is reducing public health risks from identified food fraud vulnerabilities. This plan will cover the relevant GFSI scope and be supported by the organisation's food safety management system.

With the use of our freely-available tool it will put you in a stronger position to identify vulnerabilities, reduce risks and give consumers greater confidence in the safety of your food.

We recommend you use this assessment tool at part of your overall food safety management system.

## Food safety management system

### Food safety

Mitigation of unintentional/accidental adulteration  
Science based

### Food defence

Mitigation of intentional adulteration  
Ideologically based

### Food fraud mitigation

Mitigation of intentional adulteration  
Economically based



# What's your vulnerability to food fraud?

[www.pwc.com/foodfraud](http://www.pwc.com/foodfraud) | [www.ssafe-food.org](http://www.ssafe-food.org)



## Want to speak to us? Get in touch...

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- Or speak with your local SSAFE or PwC contact for support

SSAFE is a non-profit membership driven organisation that aims to foster the continuous improvement and global acceptance of internationally recognised food protection systems and standards through public-private partnerships. What makes SSAFE unique is its focus on driving collaboration between the public and private sector to enhance the integrity of the food supply chain.

At PwC, our purpose is to build trust in society and solve important problems. We're a network of firms in 157 countries with more than 208,000 people who are committed to delivering quality in assurance, advisory and tax services. Find out more and tell us what matters to you by visiting us at [www.pwc.com](http://www.pwc.com).

PwC provides Food Supply and Integrity Services. PwC does not assure the safety of any particular food or the outcome of any food service or process. These materials and any views expressed therein are provided for general information purposes only. They do not constitute a recommendation or advice and are not sufficient basis for any decision to be made in relation to food supply and integrity issues.

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