



Policy Name:	FOOD AND DRUG PRODUCT TAMPERING		
Policy #:	OP 4.24	Last Updated:	2022-05-12
Issued By:	INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU	Approved By:	SURREY POLICE BOARD
		Review Frequency:	AS REQUIRED

RELATED POLICIES

1. PURPOSE

1.1. To ensure Surrey Police Service (SPS) Members follow policy and procedure regarding reports of food and commercial drug product tampering.

2. SCOPE

2.1. This policy applies to all Members.

3. POLICY

3.1. Food and/or drug product tampering is the intentional contamination of a food and/or drug product, with the intent to cause harm to the consumer or to a private company.

3.2. Food and/or drug product tampering is a serious criminal offence and represents a significant potential threat to public safety, food and product supply chains, and the economy. Members assigned to investigate allegations of food and/or drug product tampering will conduct thorough investigations and inform their Supervisors.

4. PROCEDURE

4.1. The Member assigned to a report of food and / or drug product tampering will conduct a thorough investigation and notify their Supervisor. The Member will:

- i. attend the scene and speak to the complainant;
- ii. seize any drug product or food suspected of being tampered with for forensic examination;

- iii. determine the need for the attendance of the Lower Mainland District Integrated Forensic Identification Services team and request their attendance if necessary; and
- iv. if applicable, seize any CCTV video from the premises.

4.2. The Supervisor must:

- i. assess the credibility of the report and the potential threat level posed to the public;
- ii. determine the need for additional units and brief them in person, by telephone, or any other non-public means;
- iii. determine the actions to be taken, if necessary, to prevent further access to the potentially tampered goods. This will be done in consultation with management of the victimized premises;
- iv. notify the Duty Officer as soon as practicable; and
- v. ensure the assigned Member routes a copy of the report to the Serious Crime Unit, Investigative Services Bureau (ISB).

4.3. Unless the incident appears unsubstantiated or is minor, the Duty Officer must notify the Inspector i/c of the ISB.

4.4. The Serious Crime Unit will:

- i. take conduct of the investigation;
- ii. determine the need for a public alert and, if applicable, contact the SPS Strategic Communications Section;
- iii. call the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (800-442-2342); and
- iv. liaise with the Health Protection Branch, Health Canada, and other agencies as required.

APPENDIX A: DEFINITIONS

“Drug Product” means commercially available over the counter and prescription drug products.

“Duty Officer” means the Frontline Policing Inspector.

“ISB” means Investigative Services Bureau.

“Member” means a sworn Police Officer appointed by the Surrey Police Board.

“Supervisor” means a Sergeant, Staff Sergeant, Inspector, Superintendent, Deputy Chief Constable, Chief Constable, and any other person acting in a Supervisory capacity who is accountable for a particular area or shift on behalf of SPS.

APPENDIX B: REFERENCES