

Lidl HQ Bombing – A Stark Reminder Why Food Defence and Business Continuity Programs Exist

This week we have seen two serious attacks on food businesses in Germany, one on the Lidl Supermarkets main office and one on ADM Wild, an international flavour house. The two sites are 40km apart.



The attacks were in the form of letter bombs that injured 4 people, one seriously. It also caused a fire.

Police have not speculated on a connection but stated that the businesses had not been aware of threats or blackmail prior to the attacks.

If we have learnt anything from past crises, the world is full of copycats.

While attacks like these cannot be predicted, we should think about the following when reviewing our TACCP Plans. These points will help us manage our risks and minimise the impact when they do occur:

- What actions would we take if we received a suspicious package or letter?
- How could we detect or identify such packages or letters in our mail processes if we think our business/ site is at heightened risk?
- What are the elements of our business that could result in heightened risk to our business?

Sadly, the world has seen such attacks previously.

The attackers could be disgruntled employees or consumers.

But in other cases the attackers have been terrorist organisations wanting to disrupt the local economy (eg the PLO in the 70s), gain notoriety through targeting high profile individuals in businesses or target businesses linked to specific minority or religious groups (eg Teddy Sieff of Marks & Spencer in assassination attempt).

High profile individuals may also be targeted for economic gain, for example Theo Albrecht of ALDI in 1971 kidnap for ransom.

Australia has previously seen letter bombs sent to Malcom Fraser, the Prime Minister at the time (1975), and to the National Crime Authority in South Australia (1994).

Regarding the identification of suspicious packages, some organisation that identified a key risk have implemented X-ray inspections of mailed items or even electronic explosive detectors.

Dealing with such incidents when they occur will require effective evacuation procedures and rapid engagement with police and supporting organisations, for example bomb disposal, HAZMAT or fire teams.

While these scenarios do not appear likely to many and may not occur often, they are a reminder that robust TACCP Systems can prepare our businesses for all eventualities.



To find out more about robust TACCP and VACCP Systems or Food Defence, contact us at info@qualityassociates.com.au.

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- detailed training for TACCP and VACCP Systems including on our online platform <https://onlinetraining.qualityassociates.com.au/courses/taccp-and-vaccp-systems>
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