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Development and validation of a scale to capture social desirability in food safety culture

Lone Jespersen, Tanya MacLaurin, Peter Vlerick

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2 Lone Jespersen, <sup>(1)</sup>, Tanya MacLaurin <sup>(2)</sup>, and Peter Vlerick <sup>(3)</sup>

3 <sup>(1)</sup>Department of Food Science, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON N1G 2M7,  
4 Canada

5 <sup>(2)</sup>Department of Hospitality, Food, and Tourism Management, College of Business and Economics,  
6 University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON N1G 2M7, Canada,

7 <sup>(3)</sup>Department of Personnel Management, Work and Organizational Psychology, Faculty of Psychology  
8 and Educational Sciences, Ghent University, H. Dunantlaan 2, 9000 Ghent, Belgium,

9 Corresponding author : Lone Jespersen, University of Guelph, 50 Stone Road East, Guelph, ON, N1G  
10 2M7, Canada. +41792460807. [lone@uoguelph.ca](mailto:lone@uoguelph.ca)

11  
12 Abstract

13 The evaluation of food safety culture in a food company is influenced by human factors such as  
14 employees' tendency to respond to social desirability – a reflection of respondents' tendency to answer  
15 questions in a manner that will be viewed favorably by others. Building on previous research a self-  
16 assessment scale consisting of 18-statements (FSDRS) was developed to capture desirable responding in  
17 food safety. Statistical analyses of data collected from 816 North-American food manufacturing  
18 professionals revealed that a shortened 14-item version of the FSDRS scale provides a reliable and valid  
19 measurement of the extent to which employees deceive themselves. It is concluded that the proposed  
20 FSDRS will enrich food safety culture measurement and food safety performance.

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