

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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# FSIS NOTICE

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50-06

8/21/06

## DIVERSITY ON COMMITTEES AND TASK GROUPS POLICY STATEMENT

This annual notice reminds employees of FSIS' commitment to ensure that internal and external committees and task groups reflect the diversity of employees, the Agency's customers and the public.

Diversity is a valued means of valid and equal differences in an environment. Diversity covers all people and any differences (**examples:** experiences, background, and geographical location).

Diversity goals for committees and task groups include selecting individuals who:

- Articulate fresh ideas and communicate diverse points of view to the organization.
- Have skills and abilities that represent diverse cultures.
- Have not had the opportunity to serve on a committee or task group.

FSIS' operating principle is to assemble members for committees and task groups based on diversity. Diversity on committees and task groups enhances communication, productivity, efficiency, and effectiveness by increasing the exchange of ideas, exploring differences, encouraging creativity, fostering respect for all points of view, and demonstrating that the commitment is inclusive within the Agency.

Managers, supervisors, and team leaders should ensure individuals serving on committees and workgroups address and consider the interests and concerns of all employees, customers, and the public. Managers and supervisors should select and support employees committed to considering the views of individuals with different backgrounds, skills, and attitudes.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**  
All Offices

**NOTICE EXPIRES:**  
August 1, 2007

**OPI:**  
CRD – Program Planning,  
Analysis and  
Compliance Branch

Remember, working together as a diverse team promotes cohesiveness, respect for different perspectives, and fosters innovative ways to reach solutions and conduct business.

*Barbara J Masters*

Administrator