

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

FSIS NOTICE	43-08	6/26/08
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**FSIS CNS-TYPE TISSUE SAMPLE VERIFICATION INSTRUCTIONS FOR RAW BEEF
PRODUCED USING ADVANCED MEAT RECOVERY (AMR) SYSTEMS**

I. PURPOSE

This notice is the first of a series of issuances on Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR) systems. This notice provides instructions for inspection program personnel on the current beef AMR01 FSIS sampling verification project for the presence of central nervous system (CNS) and other CNS-type tissues. This notice informs inspection program personnel on how to contact Headquarters to add or remove an establishment from the FSIS Raw Beef Advanced Meat Recovery (AMR) Product Monitoring – AMR01 sampling frame. This notice also provides instructions for completing and returning FSIS Form 10,210-3 *Requested Sample Programs*.

II. BACKGROUND

The regulations in 9 CFR 318.24(a) allow establishments to produce “meat” by mechanically separating skeletal muscle tissue from the bones of livestock other than skulls or vertebral column bones of cattle 30 months of age and older, using AMR systems. Establishments that use beef vertebral column bones or skulls from cattle younger than 30 months of age in AMR systems are subject to sampling under the AMR01 project for detection of CNS and CNS-type tissues (including brain, trigeminal ganglia, spinal cord, and dorsal root ganglia (DRG)). For reporting purposes, FSIS distinguishes brain and spinal cord as CNS tissue, while CNS-type tissue refers strictly to sensory ganglia (specifically, trigeminal ganglia from the skull and DRG from the vertebral column).

AMR systems imitate the physical action of hand-held high-speed knives for the removal of skeletal muscle tissue from bone through the use of hydraulic pressure. AMR systems apply pressure to detach the meat (skeletal muscle) tissue from the bones in a “hard separation” process (e.g. piston driven [Hydrau Sep HS250](#)). This is followed by a desinewer that typically uses belt pressure against a rotating perforated steel drum separating meat from connective tissue, sinews, and other non-meat components in a “soft separation” process (e.g., [BAADER Separators](#)). The

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 7/1/09

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establishment typically blends AMR product at about 5 to 12 percent of the formulation of ground products derived from manufacturing trimmings and an intermediate meat food product. Descriptive labeling for the product of AMR includes “beef trimmings, finely textured,” “beef, finely textured,” or “finely ground beef,” or any other term that accurately describes its form. When produced properly, product from AMR systems is comparable to meat derived by hand deboning and can be labeled as meat; i.e., “beef”. As defined in 9 CFR 318.24(a)(2), meat may not include any amount of CNS or other CNS-type tissue.

III. WHEN AND HOW TO CONTACT HEADQUARTERS (HQ)

A. **ADDING** an Establishment

As soon as inspection program personnel become aware that an establishment will start or has started producing beef AMR product in accordance with 9 CFR 318.24, and that product is subject to FSIS AMR01 verification sampling (i.e., the establishment uses beef skulls, vertebral columns, or dorsal spinous process (“feather bone”) as a source material), the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) or designee is to notify FSIS HQ by sending an e-mail message as outlined below. Whenever an establishment uses any skull or vertebral column from cattle younger than 30 months of age as source material for the AMR system, the beef AMR product is subject to AMR01.

NOTE: The IIC will need to update the establishment’s Inspection System Procedure (ISP) in PBIS by adding the 04A03 procedure if this procedure is not part of the establishment’s ISP.

B. **REMOVING** an Establishment

As soon as an establishment that has been producing beef AMR product subject to FSIS AMR01 verification sampling notifies inspection program personnel that it will no longer produce beef AMR product, the IIC or designee is to notify FSIS HQ by sending an e-mail message as outlined below.

C. **E-MAILING HQ**

1. The IIC or designee sends an e-mail message with the below listed information to the MS Outlook address:

To: SamplingForms-Headquarters@fsis.usda.gov
Cc: Frontline Supervisor; District Analyst
Subject: **AMR01 SAMPLE FRAME.**

Information required:

Establishment Number: 00038 M (five digits, if no letter, two spaces and M)
IIC Name or designee: CSI Ben Reddie
Sampling Project: AMR01- Beef CNS/DRG
Daytime phone number, if available (000-555-1212)
Required Action: Add or Remove Establishment from sampling frame
Reason for Action: Starting production on (Date) or Ceased production (Date).

2. The IIC or designee will copy his/her Frontline Supervisor (FLS) and District Analyst (DA) on the e-mail to add or remove an establishment is from the sampling frame.

D. ACTIONS RESULTING FROM E-MAIL

When the IIC or designee makes a request, he or she should expect to start receiving AMR01 sample request forms within four weeks after sending the original e-mail request. If the IIC or designee does not start receiving AMR01 sample request forms within four weeks, he/she should contact his/her DA through the FLS for additional instructions.

IV. COMPLETING FSIS FORM 10,210-3 REQUESTED SAMPLE PROGRAMS FOR AMR01 RAW BEEF PRODUCT PROJECT

A. When inspection program personnel receive a request to sample AMR raw beef product under AMR01, they are to collect a sample within the identified timeframe given on the sample request form or, if they do not collect a sample, follow the instructions in part V below and mail the form to the FSIS Eastern Field Services Laboratory in Athens, Georgia.

B. When inspection program personnel collect a sample, they are to follow the instructions in Block 18 *Additional Instruction* on the form. Inspection program personnel are to complete and provide all the requested information in Block 28 *Remarks* as indicated in the instructions.

V. MAILING FSIS FORM 10,210-3 REQUESTED SAMPLE PROGRAMS WHEN A SAMPLE IS REQUESTED BUT NOT COLLECTED

When inspection program personnel receive a request to sample AMR raw beef product but are unable to collect a sample for submission because the establishment is not producing the product during the requested timeframe, they are to complete Block 33 on the form by checking one of the following codes and mail the completed form to the FSIS Eastern Field Services Laboratory in Athens, Georgia:

- (72) Requested Product(s) not produced during the timeframe given on the sample request form
- (60) Plant does not produce requested products any longer
- (53) Other (Explain).

- **Check Code (72)** - If the establishment has temporarily stopped production of the product, inspection program personnel are to check (72) and mail the form to the FSIS Eastern Field Services Laboratory. For example if an establishment is under an enforcement action and is not producing product, but plans to produce product in the future, code 72 is used.

- **Check Code (60)** - If the establishment is not producing the product any longer, inspection program personnel are to check (60) each time they receive a form and mail it to the FSIS Eastern Field Services Laboratory for processing. For example an establishment removes the AMR equipment from the plant or discusses at a weekly meeting that it will cease production of beef AMR process (information captured in weekly meeting notes), code 60 is to be checked on any forms received until the establishment is removed from the sampling frame (see III.B. above.)
- **Check Code (53)** - If the establishment is not producing product for any other reason, except those identified above, inspection program personnel are to check (53). On the form, inspection program personnel explain why they have not collected a sample when they send a form to the laboratory without a sample. Mail the completed form to the FSIS Eastern Field Services Laboratory. For example, the establishment had a positive AMR01 sample, inspection program personnel are collecting follow-up FAMR01 samples during the sampling timeframe given on the sample request form, and there is only one AMR system in use at the establishment. The request for the AMR01 will be coded 53 at the end of the specified timeframe on the AMR01 form. Inspection program personnel will explain on the AMR01 form, sample not collected because of current FAMR01 sampling.

VI. HEADQUARTERS RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE SAMPLING FORMS MAILBOX

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) Headquarters personnel assigned to monitor the Outlook [SamplingForms-Headquarters](#) mailbox will:

- A. Check the SamplingForms-Headquarters mailbox at least once daily each business day and acknowledge receipt of any e-mail request back to the sender (IIC or designee) with a copy to the FLS and DA identified in the original e-mail (see III. C.) within one business day.
- B. Initiate the request to have the establishment added to or removed from the AMR01 sampling frame within two business days of acknowledging receipt of the e-mail request.
- C. Determine by looking at the timing of the request and the monthly AMR01 scheduling if there is a need to generate an AMR01 sample request form for any newly added establishment and send the form via Federal Express courier to the sender of the e-mail request.
- D. Contact the DA with jurisdiction over the establishment if there are any questions regarding the e-mail request.

VII. ANALYSIS OF THE DATA

In order to assess the sampling policy in this issuance, OPPD will complete a quarterly analysis of the data collected under the AMR01 sample project to determine if there are trends in the presence of CNS and CNS-type tissues. The analysis will also

identify trends associated with establishments being added or removed from the sampling frame. The Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response will collaborate as needed.

Refer technical questions to the Policy Development Division and sampling questions to the Risk Management Division at 1-800-233-3935 or submit your question through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com>.



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