



United States  
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# FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## FSIS to Hold Technical Meetings on Risk-Based Inspection in Processing

FSIS will hold a series of technical public meetings to address specific issues raised by stakeholders during the development of risk-based inspection in processing.

The first meeting will be held on April 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. FSIS will discuss the algorithm used to determine categories of inspection under RBI for processing establishments, use of public health significant non-compliance records and the proposed RBI timeline.

A technical summit on food attribution, co-hosted by FSIS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, will be held on April 5, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The agency will invite experts to provide information and views on the definitions of attribution as well as state-of-the-art methods in collecting attribution data.

The use of production volume data as a proxy for exposure is

the topic for the meeting on April 25. The fourth meeting, slated for April 30, will focus on the use of industry data in the risk algorithm. Both meetings will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The most current expert elicitation on inherent product risk will be discussed at the fifth meeting, which will be held sometime in July. Details of this meeting will be announced at a later time.

All of the meetings will be held in Room 244 of the George Mason University, Arlington Campus, located at 3401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201. Stakeholders will also be able to participate through audio conference. Directions to the site, phone-in information, the agenda and other meeting materials will be posted on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. Any changes in meeting dates or times will also be posted on the Web site as well as published in upcoming *Constituent Updates*.

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## Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

### Switzerland

Complete information can be found at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

## ***Risk-Based Inspection ...***

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Pre-registration for each meeting is encouraged. To register online, go to [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/index.asp), select the appropriate meeting and indicate whether you will be attending onsite at George Mason University or participating by phone.

You may also register by contacting Sally Fernandez by

phone at (202) 690-6524, by fax at (202) 690-6519, or by e-mail to [sally.fernandez@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:sally.fernandez@fsis.usda.gov).

To access issue papers, background information, meeting transcripts, workshop presentations and reports in support of risk-based inspection in processing, go to [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Risk\\_Based\\_Inspection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/index.asp).

## **FSIS Launches New Web Page Designed for Small and Very Small Plants**

FSIS has added one more way to stay informed about small and very small plant issues with the launch of a Web page dedicated to these establishment categories.

A working group with representatives from the Office of Public Health Science, the Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development and the Office of Public Affairs, Education and Outreach developed this page to address one of the key action items included in the *FSIS Strategic Implementation Plan for Strengthening Small and Very Small Plant Outreach*.

The new Web page covers topics such as current food safety resources, regulatory policies, contact information, compliance guidelines, common questions and export information.

It also covers FSIS directives and notices, newsletters and magazines. One highlight is a feature titled “What Do You Need to Know Today?” which will change often to answer some of the questions most frequently asked by small and very small plants.

Seven task-oriented links to hot topics and important resources for small and very small plants are also included.

These links allow users to order small and very small plant resource materials, find information on risk-based inspection, view FSIS workforce training resources, import products, create a food defense plan, review guidance material in support of new technology and subscribe to newsletters.

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**FSIS Offers  
Food Safety  
Recommendations for  
Spring Holidays**

FSIS issued a news release on March 26 to offer food safety recommendations for spring religious holidays.

“During the holidays, when we are hosting family, we tend to prepare larger, more complex meals than what we are accustomed to cooking and that increases the potential for foodborne illness,” said USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard A. Raymond. “That is why it is so important to remember and follow good preparation and cooking habits in the kitchen.”

The news release offers consumers important advice on how to safely prepare and handle popular egg and meat dishes for Passover and Easter. It also addresses the four key recommendations that can help consumers reduce the risk of foodborne illness during holiday gatherings.

The news release is available at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_032607\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_032607_01/index.asp).

***Small and Very Small Plants Web Page ...***

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The user-friendly page is accessible from anywhere on FSIS’ Web site. To access the page, go to <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.

The link for the page is located in the left column, under the pull-down tab for “Browse By Audience.”

**Office of Food Safety to Hold  
Codex Public Meeting**

USDA’s Office of Food Safety and the Department of Health and Human Services’ Food and Drug Administration will hold a public meeting on April 10.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 35th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling of the Codex Alimentarius Commission

(Codex), scheduled for April 30 - May 4, in Ottawa, Canada.

The meeting will be held from 1 to 4 p.m., in Room 107A, Jamie Whitten Federal Building, 1200 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, DC 20250.

For further information about the public meeting, contact Edith Kennard, international issues analyst, (202) 205-7760.

**To submit comments or questions,  
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