



FSIS Constituent Update

Volume 6, Issue 4

February 4, 2005

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Security

FSIS Announces Policy on Delinquent Payments for Voluntary Reimbursable Inspection Services

FSIS issued a notice this week announcing that it will not provide reimbursable services to establishments that have delinquent accounts and will pursue the collection of debts owed for such services.

The agency charges fees for voluntary reimbursable inspection, certification and identification services provided to establishments, warehouses and importers and exporters of meat, poultry and egg products. FSIS is authorized to recover the cost of providing these services.

Under the new policy, FSIS will send notices to all individuals and establishments that have outstanding balances. If FSIS does not receive full payment within 30 days then a second notice will be sent via certified letter. This letter will indicate that if payment in full is not received within 14 days, FSIS will not provide any further services for that individual, warehouse or establishment until the unsettled debt is paid, including any interest, penalty and assessed administrative charges. FSIS will eventually transfer any delinquent debts to the U.S. Department of Treasury for further action.

For further information on the new delinquent payments policy, contact Teresa Ramsey, Branch Chief, Financial and Accounting Branch, Office of Management, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 5601 Sunnyside Ave, Mail Drop 5262, Beltsville, MD, 20705, via phone at (301) 504-5885 or via e-mail at teresa.ramsey@fsis.usda.gov

Export Requirement Updates

The [Library of Export Requirements](#) has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

Canada

Japan

Mexico

Russia

Complete information is available online at:
[www.fsis.usda.gov/
Regulations_&_Policies/
Export_Information/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/)



Effective Date for FSIS' BSE Notices Have Been Extended

FSIS is extending the expiration date for the following FSIS Notices until February 1, 2006:

FSIS Notice **4-04**, Awareness Meeting Regarding New Regulations that Prohibit Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle and the Use of Certain Materials from Cattle for Human Food

FSIS Notice **5-04**, Interim Guidance for Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle and Age Determination

FSIS Notice **7-04**, Questions and Answers for FSIS Notice 4-04 Regarding FSIS' BSE Regulations

FSIS Notice **9-04**, Verification Instructions for the Interim Final Rule Regarding Specified Risk Materials (SRMs) In Cattle

These notices were due to expire February 1, 2005. However, the notices and instructions provided in them will remain in effect until FSIS takes final action on the interim final rule, "Prohibition of the Use of Specified Risk Materials for Human Food and Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle." When final action is taken, FSIS will reissue the relevant information from these notices in a FSIS Directive. To view these notices visit: www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/BSE_FSIS_Note_Extension.pdf

Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products Public Meeting

On February 9, the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will hold a public meeting to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 27th Session of the Codex Committee on Fish and Fishery Products, February 28 through March 4, in Cape Town, South Africa. The public meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Room 2B-047 of the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Md.

For further information about the upcoming public meetings contact Syed Amjad Ali, International Issues Analyst, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, D.C., 20250, by phone at (202) 205-7760 or by fax at (202) 720-3157. Agenda items for all of the meetings can be found at www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp.

THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

Technical Service Center

www.fsis.usda.gov/about/technical_service_center/

Food Security and Emergency Preparedness

www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Security_&Emergency_Preparedness/



FSIS Publishes Amended Plan for Reviewing Regulations Under Section 610 Requirements

FSIS is publishing an amended scheduling plan for reviewing regulations under Section 610 of the Regulatory Flexibility Act. These provisions require that all Federal agencies review existing regulations that have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities to determine whether the associated impact can be minimized.

For further information contact Dr. Quita Bowman Blackwell, Director, Directives and Economic Analysis Staff, FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 300 12th Street, SW, Room 112, Washington, DC 20250-3700, via phone at (202) 720-5627 or via e-mail at quita.bowman@fsis.usda.gov

The entire docket (No. 04-040N) can be found at: www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/regulations_directives_&_notices/

Public Meeting to Address Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

On March 15, the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services will hold a public meeting to provide information and receive comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 26th Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling in Budapest, Hungary, April 4 - 8, 2005. The public meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., in room 1A002 of the Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Md.

For information concerning the public meeting or for a sign language interpreter, contact Dr. Gregory Diachenko, Director, Division of Chemistry Research and Environmental Review, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, MD, 20740, at (301) 436-1898 or by fax at (301) 436-2634. Agenda items for the meeting can be found at: www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp

To submit comments or questions, contact the editor at:

fsisupdate@fsis.usda.gov (202) 720-9113



The USDA Food Safety Mobile: Taking Food Safety Education on the Road

The USDA Food Safety Mobile travels continuously throughout the United States to educate consumers about the risks associated with mishandling food and steps they can take to reduce their risk of foodborne illness. The food safety mobile's next dates and locations are as follows:

February 18-21

Riverside County Fair and National Date Festival
Indio, Calif.

February 25-27

Almond Blossom Festival
Ripon, Calif.