



FSIS Constituent Update

Volume 5, Issue 24

June 18, 2004

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety

Protocol For Off-Site Collection Of Samples For BSE Testing Now Available

FSIS issued notice 33-04, detailing how the compliance and inspection division will handle sample collection for BSE testing of bovine animals on June 14, 2004. This notice deals specifically with animals that were condemned during ante-mortem inspection at federally-inspected establishments and then moved to an off-site sample collection location. These off-site locations are typically rendering operations, landfills, collection sites, pet food manufacturers and other non-USDA inspected establishments. The notice details how the sample will be collected by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service APHIS service. This protocol will verify that ante-mortem condemned cattle arrive at the proper locations and that APHIS is aware of the cattle's arrival.

The complete notice, 33-04, regarding protocol for off-site collection of samples for BSE testing is available on FSIS' Web site, www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/33-04.pdf.

Notice Regarding eADRS Issued to FSIS Employees

FSIS issued notice 35-04 pertaining to the Electronic Animal Disposition Reporting System (eADRS) on June 15, 2004. Notice 35-04 provides inspection personnel with clear guidelines on what information is considered necessary to be recorded in the Humane-handling Activities Tracking (HAT) section of eADRS. This notice also covers information necessary for noncompliance records issued for humane handling noncompliance and guidance for inspectors' response to serious humane handling violations. Notice, 35-04 is available on FSIS' Web site, www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/35-04.pdf.

Export Requirement Updates

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

Colombia
Honduras
Hong Kong
Japan
Romania
Serbia

Complete information can be found at: www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/explib.htm



FSIS Seeks Comments on Upcoming New Technology Web Site

FSIS is seeking comments on a proposed plan to post information that concerns the use of new technologies in the production of meat, poultry, and egg products on its Web site. The posted information will focus on new technologies currently under review, or that have already been reviewed, by the agency. Comments are being sought specifically regarding the value to the public, potential costs and negative effects that this information would have if made available to the public.

All submissions received must include the agency name and docket number 04-003N and be received by July 19, 2004. Comments may be submitted to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW., Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250 or through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov.

The notice in its entirety is available on FSIS' Web site, www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/04-003N.htm.

Reminder: Upcoming Codex Meeting

The 27th session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission will take place at the International Conference Center in Geneva, Switzerland from June 28-July 3, 2004. The U.S. Codex Office held a public meeting in preparation for the session. This meeting will provide draft U.S. positions on items of the provisional agenda and opportunities for public comment.

Items on the agenda include matters related to the Codex Procedural Manual, preliminary and final adoption of Codex Standards and related texts and program and budgetary matters. Other agenda items include the Joint FAO/WHO Evaluation of Codex, the Trust Fund for Enhanced Participation in Codex and the relations between Codex and other international organizations.

The agenda items and more information for the Geneva, Switzerland meeting can be found at: www.codexalimentarius.net/codex/codex27_en.htm

THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

Certifying Meat & Poultry Products for Export

www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Certifying_a_Shipment/index.asp

Risk Assessments

www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Risk_Assessments/index.asp



***E. coli* O157:H7 Workshops Scheduled for June**

FSIS is holding a series of teaching workshops, through September 2004, around the nation for small and very small plants on new directives designed to strengthen *E. coli* O157:H7 prevention procedures. The workshops are scheduled on Saturdays from 9 am to 2 pm. They will present the materials in the directives to operators of small and very small federally-inspected plants, state-inspected plants, federal and state inspection personnel, members of academia and other interested parties. The three FSIS directives to be covered during the sessions are: Directive 10,010.1 Revision 1, Microbiological Testing Program and Other Verification Activities for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Raw Ground Beef Products and Raw Ground Beef Components and Beef Patty Components; Directive 6420.0, Verification of Procedures for Controlling Fecal Material, Ingesta, and Milk in Slaughter Operations; and Directive 5000.2, Review of Establishment Data by Inspection Program Personnel. The following workshops are scheduled for June:

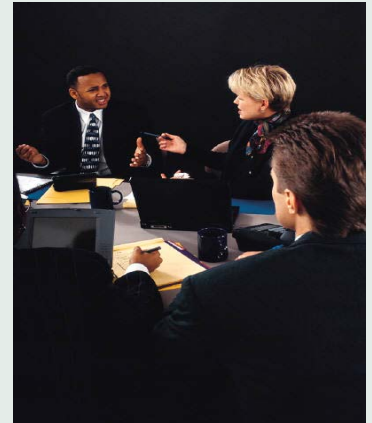
- | | |
|---------|---|
| June 19 | The St. Anthony
300 East Travis
San Antonio, Texas
(210) 227 – 4392 |
| June 26 | Renaissance Boulder Suites Hotel
500 Flatiron Blvd.
Broomfield, Colo.
(303) 464 - 8400 |

To pre-register for the workshop in San Antonio, Texas, please call (202) 690-6520 or e-mail renee.ellis@fsis.usda.gov. You may also register for this workshop, and all future workshops by calling (866) 553-3052 or via FSIS' Web site: www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/

To Contact the Constituent Update Editor

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Featured Office of the Week



Labor & Employee Relations Division

The Labor and Employee Relations Division's (LERD) mission is to prevent and correct conduct and performance problems that can significantly interfere with the agencies vital Public Health Goals. To accomplish this important task LERD provides vital leadership and helpful advice to managers handling labor relation issues. LERD is also dedicated to promoting and enhancing relations with the National Joint Council of Food Inspection Locals and other employee organizations.