



FSIS Constituent Update

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Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety

Joint Partnership Will Make the Nation's Food Supply More Secure

FSIS, in partnership with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) signed a cooperative agreement with the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA), on Thursday, September 23, 2004. The agreement will further develop integrated federal-state response plans, in support of the National Response Plan, for food and agricultural emergencies.

“Strengthening the food security infrastructure remains a high priority for the Bush Administration,” said Agriculture Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Elsa Murano. “An integrated federal-state response plan will supplement the nation’s strong food safety threat response system with additional measures to improve the ability of federal, state and local officials to prevent deliberate food contamination.”

FSIS, FDA and DHS’s Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection are funding the development of an integrated approach to prepare for and respond to emergencies affecting national agriculture and food infrastructure.

The state departments of agriculture will gain technical expertise from FSIS, FDA and DHS officials through workgroups and tabletop exercises. Best practices and guidelines for federal and state food regulatory officials will be developed to address lessons learned from case studies and threat assessments.

Coordination and cooperation among stakeholders in food safety and security continues to be a principal commitment of the Administration as it continually strives to make greater advances in protecting the nation’s food supply from intentional and unintentional threats.

Additional information about food security is available on the FSIS Web page at www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Security_&_Emergency_Preparedness/index.asp and FDA’s Web page, www.cfsan.fda.gov/~dms/fterr.html.

Export Requirement Updates

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

- Brazil**
- France**
- Japan**
- Moldova**
- Peru**
- Saudi Arabia**

Complete information is currently available at: www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/explib.htm



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Codex Committee Public Meeting to Address Residues of Veterinary Drugs In Foods

Codex will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 28, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., to provide information and receive comments on agenda items for the 15th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission's Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF) to be held Oct. 26-29 in Alexandria, Virginia.

The public meeting will be held at the Best Western Washington Gateway Hotel, Main Ballroom, 1251 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockville, Md. The meeting will allow attendees the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments on the issues and draft U.S. positions that are to be outlined and discussed at the October session.

Among the agenda items to be discussed are: Maximum Residue Limits for Veterinary Drugs; Code of Practices to Minimize and Contain Antimicrobial Resistance; and Guidelines to Establish a Regulatory Program for the Control of Veterinary Drug Residues in Food.

To submit comments or to receive copies of documents on the agenda, contact the FSIS Docket Room, Docket #04-030N, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th St., SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

For further information contact Edith E. Kennard, Staff Officer, U.S. Codex Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250; phone (202) 205-5261 or email edith.kennard@fsis.usda.gov.

THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

Notices Index

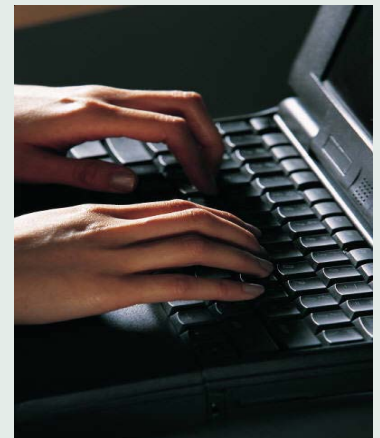
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FSIS Takes a Formal Swipe at *Listeria*

FSIS is taking another stride in the protection of public health through a new method of data collection to ensure that establishments processing certain Ready to Eat meat and poultry products are free from *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*).

Key to this data collection is the use of of FSIS Form 10,240-1, Production Information on Post-Lethality Exposed Ready-to-Eat (RTE) Products.

Forms are available online at www.fsis.usda.gov/Forms/index.asp. The forms may be completed on-line, printed and mailed to FSIS/USDA, Data Analysis and Statistical Support Staff, Cotton Annex Building, 300 12th Street, SW, Room 201, Washington D.C., 20250 or faxed to (202) 690-0824.

The form was developed in response to an interim final rule (68 CFR 34207) that amended its regulations to require that official establishments that produce certain RTE meat and poultry products prevent adulteration by the pathogen *Lm*. In this interim final rule, FSIS identified three alternative methods for addressing post-lethality contamination of RTE products by *Lm* and required that establishments adopt and implement one of these alternatives.

FSIS will develop its risk based verification testing program for establishments and RTE products based on information collected from Form 10,240-1. This measure is part of FSIS' continuing mission to develop strategies that address food safety hazards throughout the entire food production chain.

For further information contact Dr. Arshad Hussain, Director, Analysis and Statistical Support Staff, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, phone (202) 720-3219. Please direct questions to the Technical Service Center at 1-800-233-3953.

To Submit Comments or Questions, Contact the Editor at:

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

Featured Office of the Week



Office of the Administrator

The Administrator is FSIS' top official, with overall responsibility for all inspection and standard-setting activities. The Office of the Administrator (OA) oversees FSIS' eight major programs. OA houses the U.S. Office of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and the Special Assistant for Civil Rights.