



FSIS Constituent Update

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Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety

Public Meetings to be Held on the Food Safety Institute of the Americas

FSIS will hold public meetings to discuss future plans for the Food Safety Institute of the Americas (FSIA) on October 13-15, 2004, in Miami, Florida. The FSIA's goal is to further food safety education, information and communication throughout the Americas. The Institute will also seek to tap into existing networks of universities and organizations within North, South and Central America and the Caribbean to further promote the development of international food safety standards in the western hemisphere.

Attendees will be encouraged to make suggestions on the scope and direction of the FSIA at plenary sessions and in small group workshops. Issues to be discussed will include: identifying and assessing educational and informational needs; fostering collaboration and partnership development; establishing strategies and best practices for developing and delivering programs; and ensuring long-term sustainability.

The meetings will be held at the Radisson Miami Biscayne Bay hotel from noon to 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13; from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 14; and from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Friday, October 15.

All sessions are free, but registration is required. Attendees who need sign language interpreters or who have other special needs should contact the FSIA at (305) 347-5552 or by fax at (305) 530-6066. Agendas are available on the Internet at: www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events.

FSIS invites all interested persons to take part in the public meetings and to submit comments on the topics to be discussed at the meeting. Comments may be submitted by mail to: Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, 300 12th Street, SW, Room 102 Cotton Annex, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Submissions must include the agency name and docket number 04-035N. To submit comments online go to: www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2004_notices_index/index.asp.

Export Requirement Updates

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

Austria

Belgium

Bulgaria

Czech Republic

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



FSIS is Recognized for Work with Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS recently received high marks for its work with small and very small plants in the Small Business Administration's Office of the National Ombudsman (ONO) annual report to Congress, "Rating of Agencies According to FY 2003 Criteria."

FSIS recognizes the unique needs of small and very small plants and has implemented various activities that demonstrate how FSIS has met the goals of Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) and its commitment to assist small and very small plants

The SBREFA was passed to give small businesses a greater voice in the development and enforcement of Federal regulations. There are two major parts of SBREFA: Regulatory Development and the National Ombudsman and the Regulatory Fairness Boards. During regulatory development, SBREFA requires agencies to analyze and consider small business concerns when a proposed regulation will have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small businesses. Small businesses are encouraged to participate in the rulemaking process

ONO and Fairness Boards provide another venue for small businesses to express their concerns in addition to participating in the Agency's regulatory process by providing comments or contacting their Congressman. Through the provisions of SBREFA, the Small Business Administration (SBA) appoints a national ombudsman and creates 10 regional Fairness Boards, made up of small businesspersons. Small businesses may contact the national ombudsman or Fairness Boards about their complaints regarding Agency regulatory, compliance or enforcement decisions.

A copy of the report is available on SBA's Web site at www.sba.gov/ombudsman

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To Submit Comments or Questions, Contact the Editor at:

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

THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

Constituent Groups

www.fsis.usda.gov/Constituent_Groups/

Ask Karen

www.fsis.usda.gov/food_safety_education/Ask_Karen/index.asp#Question

Fact Sheets

www.fsis.usda.gov/fact_sheets/

