



# FSIS Constituent Update

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Protecting the Public Health Through Food Safety

## National Day of Mourning Operating Procedures Clarified

The President issued an Executive Order to close Federal offices and excuse all Federal employees from duty for the scheduled workday on Friday, June 11, 2004, except those who, in the judgment of the head of the agency, cannot be excused for reasons of national security, defense, or other essential public business.

Inspection services will be provided to the many inspected establishments who will be operating on the National Day of Mourning. Plants that operate on this day will not be charged for their normal approved hours of operation because this holiday is not one of the eleven holidays cited in 9 CFR 307.5(b) or 381.38(b). Inspector premium pay, for normal approved hours of operation, will be paid for by the Agency. Overtime in excess of the 8 hour shift would be charged as reimbursable overtime.

## New Speech Available on FSIS Web Site

“Equivalence – Ensuring the Flow of Safe Meat, Poultry and Egg Products Across Country Borders,” with accompanying powerpoint presentation has been added to FSIS’ Web site. The remarks were given by FSIS Deputy Administrator Linda Swacina at the Mexico – U.S. Poultry Health and Trade Symposium in Mexico City, Mexico on May 12, 2004. You can find this presentation and others on FSIS’ Web site, [www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Speech\\_051204\\_Swacina/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/Speech_051204_Swacina/index.asp)

## Export Requirement Updates

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

**Indonesia**  
**Mexico**  
**Trinidad**

Complete information can be found at: [www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/explib.htm](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OFO/export/explib.htm)



# NACMCF Subcommittee on Criteria for Microbiological Performance Standards for Ground Chicken to Meet

The National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) Subcommittee on Microbiological Performance Standards for Ground Chicken will hold public meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, June 15-17, 2004, from 8:30am – 5:00pm, at the Aerospace Building, 901 “D” St., SW, Room 369, Washington, DC.

If you would like to attend any of these meetings, please contact Karen Thomas, Advisory Committee Specialist, at 202-690-6620. Please note that due to increased security measures at the Aerospace Center, all persons wishing to attend must RSVP in advance.

## Reminder: Upcoming Codex Meeting

The 27<sup>th</sup> 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 will hold a public meeting in preparation for the session on Tuesday, June 15, 2004, in Room 107A of the Jamie Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, Washington, D.C. This meeting will provide draft U.S. positions on items of the provisional agenda and opportunities for public comment.

Items on the agenda include procedural 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](http://www.codexalimentarius.net/codex/codex27_en.htm)

## THIS WEEK'S HOT WEB LINKS

### FSIS Biographies

[www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/FSIS\\_Biographies](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/FSIS_Biographies)

### Food Safety Educator

[www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/index.asp)

### Risk Assessments

[www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Risk\\_Assessments/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Risk_Assessments/index.asp)



# Upcoming *E. coli* O157:H7 Workshops

From May through September 2004, FSIS is holding a series of teaching workshops 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:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Location</u>
June 12	Doubletree Hotel Coconut Grove 2649 South Bayshore Drive Miami, FL (305) 858 – 2500
June 19	The St. Anthony 300 East Travis San Antonio, TX (210) 227 – 4392
June 26	Renaissance Boulder Suites Hotel 500 Flatiron Blvd. Broomfield, CO (303) 464 - 8400

To pre-register for the workshop in Miami, Florida, please call (202) 690-6520 or e-mail [renee.ellis@fsis.usda.gov](mailto: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/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Meetings_&_Events/)

## To Contact the Constituent Update Editor

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# Featured Office of the Week



## Evaluation & Enforcement Division

The **Evaluation & Enforcement Division** (EED) takes the lead for FSIS in initiating criminal, civil and administrative sanctions for violations of FSIS laws and regulations. Quarterly Enforcement Reports summarize the enforcement actions FSIS has taken to ensure that products that reach consumers are safe, wholesome and properly labeled. For more information please visit: [www.fsis.usda.gov/About\\_FSIS/OPEER/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/OPEER/).