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Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS to Hold *Salmonella* in Poultry

Public Meeting

On February 23 and 24, FSIS will hold a public meeting in Atlanta, Ga. to discuss post-harvest interventions to reduce *Salmonella* in poultry. The meeting will inform establishments of the research that is being conducted pertaining to *Salmonella* testing for broilers and the Agency's policy to protect public health. This meeting is a follow-up to the August 2005, public meeting on advances in pre-harvest reduction of *Salmonella* in poultry.

The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and for Friday, February 24, from 8:30 a.m. to noon. The meeting will be held at the Loudermilk Center, 40 Courtland Street, N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 30303.

Registration information will be provided on FSIS' Web site soon.

Technical Service Center (TSC) Issues Questions and Answers for FSIS Notice 32-05

FSIS has issued a new set of questions and answers (Q & As) pertaining to FSIS Notice 32-05, *Verification of Establishment's Reassessment of HACCP Plans to Address Mechanically Tenderized Beef*.

policies, programs, systems and procedures.

To view the "TSC Questions and Answers" page, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_Fsis/Technical_Service_Center/index.asp.

The Technical Service Center serves as FSIS' center for technical assistance, advice and guidance regarding the implementation of national

If you have questions regarding the Q & As, contact the Technical Service Center at (800) 233-3935.



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Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

Canada

European Union

Lebanon

People's Republic of China

Singapore

Taiwan

Vietnam

Complete information can be found at: www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/.

Hot Link

The electronic Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) reading room on FSIS' Web site will now be updated weekly to include a list of the agency's incoming FOIA requests. Visit the FOIA reading room at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FOIA/FSIS_Electronic_Reading_Room/index.asp#Request for more information.

FSIS to Issue Directives and Notices

As a public health regulatory agency, FSIS publishes directives and notices to enable the Agency to carry out its mission of protecting public health. Within the next month, FSIS expects to issue the following directives and notices:

Directives

- 5100.3, Rev. 1 - *Administrative Enforcement Report* (FSIS is revising this directive to clarify who may take photographs and when.)
- 5220.2 - *Issuance of a Ten-day Letter for Inactive Operations* (This directive sets out the actions that a district manager may take with an establishment that is not operating or has not responded to district office inquiries as to its operational status and intentions.)
- 9000.1 - *Export Certification* (FSIS is reissuing this directive to clarify current Agency policy regarding the export certification process. This directive clarifies the process if an FSIS certifying official feels that he or she is unable to sign an export certificate and makes it clear that a facsimile of FSIS Form 9060-6 may be used to provide the information requested in that form. It also clarifies the purpose of the export library and other aspects of the directive.)
- 9040.1, Rev. 3 - *Re-inspection of Product Intended for Export* (This directive has been revised to provide for the examination of boxes or containers in situations where inspection program personnel have a reason to question whether products offered for export are properly labeled.)
- 10,240.4, Rev. 1 - *Verification Procedures for the Listeria monocytogenes (Lm)- PHASE 2* (This revision provides additional sampling procedures related to *Lm*. This was a notice that is now being changed into two directives.)
- 10,240.5 - *Assessment of the Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) Regulations – PHASE 2* (This directive provides enforcement, investigations and analysis officers with instructions regarding environmental sampling and methodology for assessments based on lab results.)

Notices (Numbers are assigned as notices are issued)

- *PBIS Profile Extension Instructions on Food Defense Plans* (This notice provides instructions to inspectors-in-charge for completing the profile extension about an establishment's food defense plan.)

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Meat, Poultry and Egg Product Inspection Directory Available by E-mail Subscription

FSIS' e-mail subscription service is now available for the meat, poultry and egg product inspection directory. This directory lists establishments that produce meat, poultry and/or egg products regulated by FSIS.

The e-mail alert service provides automatic and customized access to specific food safety news and information. Customers who subscribe to the directory alert will be notified via e-mail when updates have been made to the directory.

To subscribe, go to http://fsis.usda.gov/Regulations&Policies/Meat_Poultry_Egg_Inspection_Directory/index.asp.

Hot Link

On January 27, FSIS published a news release on "Food Safety Advice for Your Super Bowl Party."

To view, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_012706_01/index.asp.

FSIS to Issue Directives and Notices

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- *Importation of Canadian Cattle, Sheep and Goats into the United States* (This notice provides instructions to FSIS personnel regarding the receipt, slaughter and inspection of certain ruminants imported from Canada. Regulatory requirements for the importation of certain Canadian ruminants began March 7, 2005, and applies to cattle, sheep and goats.)
- *Certifying Beef Products under Export Verification (EV) Programs* (This notice provides FSIS personnel with new instructions related to the FSIS certification process for beef products exported under EV programs. Primarily, this notice announces that an additional review of the certifying documents will be conducted by the Technical Service Center before the product may be shipped.)

Office of Inspector General (OIG) Issues Final Report on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Surveillance Program

On February 2, OIG publicly released its final report on Phase II and III of its ongoing investigation of USDA's BSE surveillance and controls program.

The final report contained 22 recommendations directed at the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and FSIS.

The OIG has approved all of FSIS' proposed actions in response to the recommendations contained in the report. A significant number of the recommendations were already addressed by FSIS.

The objectives of this audit were to evaluate the enforcement of the ban on specified risk

materials and administration of FSIS' testing program for central nervous system (CNS) tissue and controls to prevent CNS tissue in meat from the advanced meat recovery systems. The audit also evaluated APHIS' and FSIS' actions in response to recommendations in the BSE Surveillance Program - Phase I audit report.

To view FSIS Administrator Dr. Barbara Masters' statement in response to the OIG report, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_020206_01/index.asp.