



United States  
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 Outreach Sessions for Small and Very Small Plants in Montana

FSIS will hold outreach sessions for the owners and operators of small and very small plants in Missoula, Bozeman, Billings, Montana.

The sessions will cover a regulatory review of the sanitation standard operating procedures, hazard analysis and critical control point, and rules of practice regulations.

The outreach sessions will be held at the following locations:

### Saturday, July 29

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn Parkside  
200 S. Pattee Street  
Missoula, Montana 59802

### Sunday, July 30

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Holiday Inn  
5 Baxter Lane  
Bozeman, Montana 59715

### Monday, July 31

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Sheraton  
27 N. 27th Street  
Billings, Montana 59101

To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747. Online registration forms can be found at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/index.asp).



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## Export Requirement Updates



There were no changes in the export requirements this week.

To learn more about exporting products to other countries, visit FSIS' Web site at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

## FSIS to Hold Public Meeting to Discuss Updated Risk Assessment for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy

FSIS will hold a technical meeting on July 25, to present an updated risk assessment for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and receive comments.

FSIS is also announcing the availability of an updated risk assessment model and report for BSE. The previous risk assessment, released in October 2003, was revised to incorporate information available through December 2003, including the discovery of a BSE-infected cow in Washington State.

The revised risk assessment model evaluates the impact of

measures implemented after the discovery of the BSE-positive cow and recommendations made by an international BSE panel.

The public meeting will be held from 1 - 4 p.m., in the Jefferson Auditorium of the U.S. Department of Agriculture South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C., 20250.

For further information, contact Dr. Chuanfa Guo, senior risk analyst, FSIS, at (202) 690-0817 or by electronic mail at [Chuanfa.guo@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Chuanfa.guo@fsis.usda.gov).

## FSIS Issues Notice on Non-Routine Incident Data Collection Efforts

FSIS issued Notice 42-06, titled, *Non-Routine Incident Data Collection Efforts*.

This notice announces that FSIS personnel will collect information about the operational status of official establishments, as well as facilities that handle FSIS-regulated products (e.g., warehouses), during a non-routine incident (e.g., a hurricane).

FSIS field personnel may be notified to supply information as to whether official establishments or facilities are operational as a result of the non-routine incident.

Notice 42-06 is available on FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Notice\\_42-06/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Notice_42-06/index.asp).

## Speech Available on FSIS' Web Site

Visit [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News & Events/2006 Speeches/](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/2006_Speeches/) to view Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Richard Raymond's May 31, welcoming remarks for the roll-out of the small and very small plant outreach plan in College Station, Texas.

## EIAOs to Provide Outreach to Small and Very Small Plants

By late summer, as part of FSIS' outreach efforts to small and very small plants, the agency will utilize enforcement, investigation and analysis officers (EIAOs) in the field to proactively visit establishments, explain FSIS procedures and provide additional information or resources as requested by individual plants.

This is a further step in the groundbreaking initiative that was announced on May 31 in College Station, Texas. FSIS would like to provide operators of small and very small plants with assistance to further improve their establishments' food safety programs.

As part of its commitment to ensure food safety at all plants, FSIS held a national series of listening sessions and identified innovative ways for small and very small establishments to fully benefit from the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point system.

The program will feature a toll-free number and Web page to assist small plants and offer better access to technical resources, including scientific validation materials and education and training information, delivered in new and innovative ways.

Partnerships with industry, academia, consumers, federal, state and international public health partners will be expanded and better leveraged.

FSIS will assess the needs of the small and very small plants as well as evaluate the effectiveness of agency programs designed to assist them on a continuing basis.

Additional aspects of the program will include utilizing FSIS employees to meet proactively with small and very small plants, get more details about their specific needs and provide joint training sessions for small and very small plants and FSIS employees.

These visits to area plants are designed to enhance lines of communication between FSIS and operators of small and very small plants.

EIAOs will informally discuss regulatory requirements specific to each facility, what preparations a plant should take in anticipation of a scheduled food safety assessment and help identify information resources that assist in strengthening a plant's food safety system.

Small and very small plants comprise about 90 percent of the approximately 6,000 federally inspected meat, poultry and egg product plants in the United States. For more information about Small & Very Small Plant Outreach, visit [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Small\\_Very\\_Small\\_Plant\\_Outreach/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Small_Very_Small_Plant_Outreach/index.asp).

## **FSIS Issues Notice on *E. Coli* Sampling**

FSIS issued Notice 43-06 on July 20, titled, *Retail Escherichia Coli (E. coli) O157:H7 Sampling*.

This notice provides direction to investigators from the Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review, Compliance and Investigations Division, for collecting raw ground beef samples at retail stores for *E. coli* O157:H7 analysis.

The notice provides clarification to investigators at retail facilities on whether or not they should collect ground beef samples. This notice also provides clarification as to what products are considered “specially manufactured beef trimmings.”

Notice 43-06 is available on FSIS’ Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/Notice\\_43-06/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Notice_43-06/index.asp).

## **FSIS Issues Directive on Non-Routine Incident Response**

FSIS issued Directive 5500.2 on July 19, titled, *Non-Routine Incident Response*.

The directive expands the definition of non-routine (emergency) incidents to include terrorist attacks and natural disasters such as hurricanes and tornadoes.

It also provides instructions to inspection program personnel on how to report incidents involving FSIS-regulated product on FSIS Form 5500-4, *Non-Routine Incident Report* (formerly FSIS Form 6500-5).

This directive also outlines the procedures that should be followed by the emergency management committee in managing a non-routine incident.

The directive, formerly 6500.1, is being renumbered to be included in the correct numbering series.

The directive is available on FSIS’ Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/5500.2.pdf>.

## **FSIS Re-Issues Notice on Verifying Food Safety Systems**

FSIS issued an amendment to Directive 5000.1 Revision 2, on July 18, titled, *Verifying an Establishment’s Food Safety System*.

This amendment is necessary because the earlier version provided instructions to consumer safety inspectors, now called enforcement, investigation and analysis officers (EIAOs). Instructions for the EIAOs can be found in the 5100.1 series of directives.

The directive provides comprehensive direction to EIAOs on how they are to protect public health by properly verifying an establishment’s compliance with the pathogen reduction, sanitation and hazard analysis and critical control point regulations.

The notice is available on FSIS’ Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oppde/rdad/FSISDirectives/5000.1\\_A1.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oppde/rdad/FSISDirectives/5000.1_A1.pdf).