



United States  
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Inspection Service

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# FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## FSIS to Hold Public Meeting on Definition of the Term “Natural”

FSIS will hold a public meeting on December 12 to discuss “product labeling: definition of the term ‘natural.’”

The agency received a petition from Hormel Foods to establish a definition for the voluntary claim “natural” and to delineate the conditions under which the claim can be used on the labels of meat and poultry products.

The public meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the south end of the cafeteria located in the USDA South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250.

For more information about the public meeting, contact Robert Post at (202) 205-0279 or by e-mail at [Robert.Post@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Post@fsis.usda.gov).

## FSIS to Co-Chair Risk Analysis Symposium

FSIS will co-chair a symposium with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention during the 2006 Society for Risk Analysis (SRA) annual meeting.

The theme of the meeting is “Risk Analysis in a Dynamic World: Making a Difference.”

The symposium will focus on modeling the attribution of foodborne illness in the United

States and adaptation of a model for attributing human Salmonellosis to consumption of meat, poultry and eggs in the United States.

The SRA annual meeting brings together nearly 1,000 international scientists and practitioners from a wide range of disciplines who share an interest in risk analysis.

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## Export Requirement Updates



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

**Bulgaria**

**Canada**

**European Union**

**Republic of Korea**

Complete information can be found at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

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## Natural Claims

FSIS revised the entry for “Natural Claims” in its Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book on the agency’s Web site to clarify the “Notes” added to the entry in August 2005.

Visit [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/Basics\\_of\\_Labeling/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Basics_of_Labeling/index.asp) for more information.

## Risk Analysis Symposium ...

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The annual meeting will feature several plenary sessions focused on the theme of making a difference and the role of risk analysis in a dynamic world.

It will also consist of technical sessions in the form of oral presentations, posters and poster-platforms.

The SRA meeting will be held from December 3 - 6, at the

Renaissance Harborplace Hotel, 202 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Md. 21202.

For more information about the symposium, visit <http://birenheide.com/sra/2006AM/program/singleession.php3?sessid=M3-E>.

## FSIS Continues to Solicit and Accept Comments on Risk-Based Inspection

FSIS is soliciting comments on the topics that were discussed during the public meeting on risk-based inspection (RBI).

FSIS held the public meeting on October 10 and 11 to discuss risk-based inspection issues. The meeting provided an overview of FSIS’ vision for risk-based inspection.

FSIS is accepting comments until it posts a report in December prepared for the agency by the third party facilitator, Resolve, Inc. The agency will make another

announcement at that time about the report’s availability and an opportunity for public comment.

Comments can be submitted by e-mail to [RiskBasedInspection@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:RiskBasedInspection@fsis.usda.gov) or by fax to (202) 690-6519.

For more information about risk-based inspection, visit FSIS’ Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/Risk\\_Based\\_Inspection/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Risk_Based_Inspection/index.asp).

## FSIS to Hold Regulatory Education Sessions for Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS will hold regulatory education sessions on December 2 and 5 for the owners and operators of small and very small plants in Georgia and Texas.

The sessions will cover a regulatory walk-through of sanitation standard operating procedures and the hazard analysis and critical control

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## **FSIS Issues Public Health Alert on Recalled HoneyBaked Foods Products**

FSIS issued a public health alert on November 29, to remind consumers of the November 24, recall of cooked ham and turkey products from HoneyBaked Foods, Inc., of Holland, Ohio. The products may be contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes*.

The ham and turkey products were sold nationwide through Internet and telephone catalogue sales as well as at retail establishments and kiosks in Toledo, Ohio. The products were sold before Thanksgiving and any leftovers should be discarded.

While FSIS was confirming that HoneyBaked Foods, Inc., contacted customers who had purchased the products subject to recall through telephone and Internet catalog sales, the agency was informed of seven cases of self-reported illnesses. At this time, these illnesses have not been confirmed by laboratory testing, nor have they been diagnosed by a medical professional. The consumers involved in these reports are located in California, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Mississippi, Nevada and Texas.

To view the public health alert, visit FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&Events/NR\\_112906\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/NR_112906_01/index.asp).

## **Regulatory Education Sessions...**

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point and rules of practice regulations.

The regulatory education sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel, 165 Courtland Street, Atlanta, Ga. 30303; and
- Tuesday, December 5, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Embassy

Suites Dallas Market Center, 2727 Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75207.

To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747.

Online registration forms and information about upcoming sessions can be found at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&Events/Outreach\\_Sessions/SVS\\_Plants/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/Outreach_Sessions/SVS_Plants/index.asp).

## **FSIS Posts 2007 Strategic Implementation Plan on Enhancing Outreach to Small and Very Small Plants**

FSIS has posted on its Web site the 2007 strategic implementation plan on enhancing outreach to small and very small plants.

It outlines what the agency plans to accomplish during fiscal year (FY) 2007, as well the agency's outreach accomplishments for FY 2006.

The 2007 strategic implementation plan can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at [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).

The agency also posted to its Web site copies of the enforcement investigations and analysis officer (EIAO) work methods training modules.

EIAOs conduct comprehensive food safety assessments at establishments in which they consider all food safety aspects that relate to that establishment and its products, the nature and source of all materials received, the establishment's processes and the environment of the establishment.

This information, combined with recently issued and updated directives, describes FSIS policies and procedures for EIAOs.

The EIAO work methods training modules are available on FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS\\_Employees/EIAO\\_Training\\_Modules/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_Employees/EIAO_Training_Modules/index.asp).

## Hot Links

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### E-mail Subscription Service

- The e-mail alert service provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. Visit [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&events/Email\\_Subscription/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&events/Email_Subscription/index.asp) to sign up.



**Ask Karen** - FSIS' virtual representative can answer your questions 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Visit "Ask Karen" at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Food\\_Safety\\_Education/Ask\\_Karen/index.asp#Question](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/Ask_Karen/index.asp#Question).

## FSIS Issues New Notices

FSIS publishes directives and notices to enable the agency to carry out its mission of protecting public health. Last week, FSIS issued the following notices:

- Notice 78-06 - *Export Library Revisions for October 2006*. This notice informs inspection program personnel of changes that countries made to export requirements within the month of October.

- Notice 79-06 - *Clarification Regarding Appropriate Use of the Content of FSIS Workforce Training Materials in Relation to Policy and Validation*. This notice clarifies the appropriate use of FSIS workforce training material.

- Notice 80-06 - *Notice of Availability for Various Questions*. This notice provides answers to five commonly asked questions about hazard analysis and critical control point.

- Notice 81-06 - *Clarification of Re-inspection Procedures for Product Presented for Export at Official Establishments*. This notice clarifies re-inspection procedures that inspection program personnel should employ in official establishments before issuing export certificates.

These notices can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&Policies/FSIS\\_Notices\\_Index/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/FSIS_Notices_Index/index.asp).

Within the next month, FSIS

expects to issue the following directives and notices:

### Directives

- 5500.4 - *Products Intentionally Adulterated with Threat Agents*. This directive instructs FSIS inspection program personnel how to verify that establishments properly address and control intentionally adulterated product.

- 10,000.1 - *Policy on Use of Results from Non-FSIS Laboratories*. This notice describes the decision making process that FSIS uses when determining whether it is appropriate to rely on results from a non-FSIS laboratory.

### Notices (Numbers are assigned as notices are issued)

- *Documentation of a Regulatory Noncompliance Related to Specified Risk Material*. This notice clarifies how inspection program personnel are to document regulatory non-compliance related to specified risk materials on non-compliance reports.

- *Performance Based Inspection System (PBIS) Version 5.1.6*. This notice provides instructions for changes to PBIS and provides new instructions related to surveys and profile extensions.

- *Availability of Electronic Web-Based Form 10,240-1*. This notice provides instructions for using the electronic 10,240-1.