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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS to Increase Testing of Imported Meat and Poultry Products from Canada

Under Secretary Dr. Richard Raymond released a statement on Nov. 3 regarding increased testing and re-inspection of imported meat and poultry products from Canada.

will receive increased levels of re-inspection by FSIS to confirm they are eligible to enter commerce when presented at the U.S. border.

“The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has instituted additional import requirements for meat and poultry products from Canada,” stated Dr. Raymond.

Raymond affirmed that FSIS will also immediately begin an audit of the Canadian food safety system that will focus on Ranchers Beef, Ltd. and will include other similar establishments that export beef to the United States.

Effective this week, the agency plans to increase testing for *Salmonella*, *Listeria monocytogenes* and *E. coli* O157:H7, and will require that shipments be held until testing is complete and products are confirmed negative for these pathogens. In addition, Canadian meat and poultry products

In a letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), FSIS stated that the increased inspection measures would begin on Nov. 9.

To view a copy of Dr. Raymond’s statement and the agency’s letter to the CFIA, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/index.asp.

Agency to Host Outreach Seminar

FSIS will hold an outreach seminar on Dec. 5, the second seminar of a six-part outreach series targeted to small and very small plants which will continue through April 16, 2008.

This seminar will review FSIS guidelines for generic *E. coli* testing for process control verification in cattle, swine and poultry establishments.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Japan

Russia

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



Outreach Seminar ...

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Sampling issues and how to achieve statistical process control procedures in small and very small plant establishments will also be discussed.

The seminar will be held from 10 to 11 a.m. EST and from 6 to 7 p.m. EST. To register by phone,

call (800) 336-3747 or send an e-mail to OutreachTSC@fsis.usda.gov.

Information about upcoming Web seminars can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Outreach_Sessions_SVS_Plants/index.asp.

FSIS Posts Meeting Transcript

FSIS has posted on its Web site a transcript from the Oct. 17 public meeting on the public health significance of various strains of *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*).

The meeting solicited input from academia, consumers, other public health and regulatory agencies and industry on the issue

of whether non-O157:H7 shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* should be considered to be adulterants as *E. coli* O157:H7 is.

The transcript is available on FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/past_events/index.asp.

FSIS Issues Notice on Export Library Revisions

FSIS issued Notice 72-07 on Nov. 9 titled, *Export Library Revisions for October 2007*. This notice provides links to the export library revisions covering the month of October.

During October, the following countries made changes in their export requirements: Australia,

Canada, Cuba, European Union, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico Plant List, Russia and Taiwan.

Notices are available on FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/FSIS_Notices_Index/index.asp.