



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

Office of Food Safety to Hold Codex Public Meeting

USDA's Office of Food Safety and the Department of Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration will hold a public meeting on March 8.

The purpose of the meeting is to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 39th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Additives of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, which

will be held from April 24-28, in Beijing, China.

The meeting will be held from 3 to 5 p.m., in Room 1A003, Harvey W. Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Highway, College Park, Md. 20740.

For further information about the public meeting, contact Ellen Matten, international issues analyst, at (202) 205-7760.

FSIS Issues New Notices

FSIS recently issued the following notices to enable the agency to carry out its mission of protecting public health.

- Notice 14-07, *Importation of Canadian Cattle, Sheep and Goats into the United States*. This notice provides important information to inspection program personnel about the receipt, slaughter and inspection of cattle, sheep and goats imported from Canada.
- Notice 15-07, *Alternative Methods for Ensuring 12*

Percent Lean Tissue in Meat Trimmings. This notice informs inspection program personnel that establishments should meet the minimum 12 percent lean tissue standard in meat trimmings by either visually examining each piece of trim or by using statistically-based sampling and analytical testing methods.

- Notice 16-07, *Questions and Answers: FSIS Notice 44-06 Requesting Sampling Supplies and Using The New Fedex Billable Stamp*. This notice provides answers to questions

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Costa Rica

Ecuador

European Union

Mexico

Panama

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

New Notices...

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that FSIS has received regarding the use of the new Fedex billable stamp.

- Notice 17-07, *Follow-Up Sampling of Certain Raw Ground Beef Products after an FSIS Verification Sample Tests Positive for E. coli O157:H7*. This notice instructs district offices how to initiate follow-up sampling at the originating supply slaughter establishments that produce beef manufacturing trimmings and other raw ground beef or raw beef patty components. It also instructs inspection program personnel how to sample under the new sampling program for beef manufacturing trimmings and other raw ground beef or raw beef patty components.

- Notice 18-07, *Routine Sampling of Beef Manufacturing Trimmings Intended for Use in Raw Ground Beef*. This notice instructs inspection program personnel how to sample under the new sampling program for beef manufacturing trimmings. On March 19, inspection program personnel will begin routine verification of beef manufacturing trimmings intended for use in raw ground beef or beef patty products at the slaughter establishments that produced those trimmings.

These notices can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/FSIS_Notices_Index/index.asp.

Register to Attend March Regulatory Education Sessions for Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS will hold regulatory education sessions in March for the owners and operators of small and very small plants in South Carolina, Missouri, Pennsylvania and Alabama.

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

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

- Tuesday, March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Ramada Columbia Northeast, 7510 Two Notch Road, Columbia, S.C.;

- Tuesday, March 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Radisson Hotel & Suites Kansas City-City Center, 1301 Wyandotte, Kansas City, Mo.;

- Tuesday, March 20, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Harrisburg, 23 S. Second Street, Harrisburg, Pa.; and

- Wednesday, March 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the

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Fact Sheets for At-Risk and Underserved Populations

FSIS' at-risk and underserved populations Web page offers food safety fact sheets for specific groups of consumers, like college students. The list also includes fact sheets written with at-risk citizens in mind.

Infants and young children, pregnant women, older adults and people with weakened immune systems caused by cancer treatment, diabetes, acquired immune deficiency syndrome and bone marrow and organ transplants are at greatest risk for foodborne illness.

The fact sheets are available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/At_Risk_&Underserved_Fact_Sheets/index.asp.



Regulatory Education Sessions ...

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Doubletree Birmingham, 808 South 20th Street, Birmingham, Ala.

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.

Agency Proposes Eligibility of Chile to Export Poultry and Poultry Products to the United States

FSIS issued a *Federal Register* notice on February 26, to propose that the agency add Chile to the list of countries eligible to export poultry and poultry products to the United States.

Reviews by FSIS of Chile's laws, regulations and inspection implementation show that its poultry inspection system requirements are equivalent to the relevant provisions of the Poultry Products Inspection Act and its implementing regulations.

Under this proposal, poultry and poultry products processed in certified Chilean establishments may be exported to the United

States. All such products will be subject to re-inspection at United States ports-of-entry by FSIS inspectors.

The agency is accepting comments through April 27. Comments may be submitted through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> and by electronic mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

The notice is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2006-0030.htm>.

FSIS to Issue Final Rule on Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations

FSIS will issue a final rule on March 5 to establish January 1, 2010, as the uniform compliance date for new food labeling regulations issued between

January 1, 2007, and December 31, 2008.

FSIS periodically announces uniform compliance dates for new

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Helpful Resources

E-mail Alert Service - FSIS' e-mail alert service provides subscribers automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. Visit http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&events/Email_Subscription/index.asp to sign up for agency e-mail alerts.



Ask Karen - FSIS' virtual representative can answer your food safety questions 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Visit "Ask Karen" at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/Ask_Karen/index.asp.

USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline - Food safety experts are available year-round Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern Time to answer questions about safely preparing and cooking foods. The toll-free number is 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854). Recorded messages are available 24 hours a day.

Final Rule ...

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meat and poultry food labeling requirements to minimize the economic impact of label changes.

On December 14, 2004, FSIS issued a final rule announcing that it will adopt uniform compliance dates and established January 1, 2008, as the uniform compliance date for food labeling regulations that issued between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2006.

The agency will be accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> and by electronic mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

The final rule will be available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp.

**To submit comments or questions,
contact the editor, Faye Smith**

at

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or

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