



United States
Department of
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Food Safety and
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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS to Hold Regulatory Education Session in Illinois

FSIS will hold a regulatory education session on Sept. 15 for the owners and operators of small and very small plants in Illinois.

human food and requirements for the disposition of non-ambulatory disabled cattle.



The regulatory education session will be held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, 9300 W. Bryn Mawr Avenue, Rosemont, Ill., from 9 to 11 a.m.

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.

This session will cover the regulation on the prohibition of the use of specified risk materials for

FSIS to Request Revision of Currently Approved Information Collection

FSIS issued a *Federal Register* notice on Sept. 10 titled, *Notice of Request for a Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection (Marking, Labeling and Packaging)*.

of meat, poultry and egg products because of revised estimates, which support a finding of more total burden hours.

In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and the Office of Management and Budget regulations, this notice announces the agency's intention to request a revision of an approved information collection regarding the regulatory requirements for marking, labeling and packaging

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> and by electronic mail at FSIS.RegulationsComments@usda.gov.

This notice is available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Hong Kong

Japan

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

askFSIS

askFSIS - A new Web-based feature, designed to help answer technical and policy questions regarding inspection and public health regulations 24 hours a day.

To access *askFSIS*, go to www.fsis.usda.gov and select “Help” from the global navigation buttons at the top of the main page.

Interagency Working Group on Import Safety Releases Report on Strategic Framework for Import Safety

The Interagency Working Group on Import Safety released a report titled, *Protecting American Consumers Every Step of the Way: A strategic framework for continual improvement in import safety*. The report outlines an approach that can build upon existing efforts to improve the safety of imported products while facilitating trade.

The United States imports some \$2 trillion worth of products from more than 150 countries, and that number is expected to triple, according to the report.

The group, headed by Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Michael O. Leavitt, presented the report to President George W. Bush on Sept. 10.

“The Strategic Framework establishes the building blocks upon which the U.S. system of import safety can be strengthened,

recognizing that the U.S. enjoys one of the safest food supplies in the world,” USDA Secretary Mike Johanns said in a statement.

The report will serve as the foundation for an action plan being developed by the working group. Expected to be presented to the president in November, the action plan will provide specific short- and long-term recommendations.

In addition to the release of the report, HHS provided House and Senate briefings on Sept. 10, and an FSIS official briefed staff members of the House Agriculture Committee on Sept. 11, about the report.

Details about an upcoming public meeting and comment period, the Strategic Framework report, and other import safety information are available at www.importsafety.gov.