



Sampling And Other Issues

**STEC - Addressing the Challenges,
Moving Forward With Solutions**

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Sampling Issues

- **Testing for *E. coli* O157:H7 in raw beef at all points in the production and handling chain, when tied to effective dressing, decontamination, and intervention mitigations, is an essential part of any food safety system**
 - **Below detectable levels is the standard by which FSIS makes a judgment about the acceptability of product (trim, primal cut, ground product)**



Sampling Next Steps

- **Generally, FSIS has accepted industry test results in making determinations about which products are impacted by a positive test result; subsequent positive findings in same or further processed product is a reality**
 - **Sampling protocols will be under increased FSIS focus in the short-term (from Attachment #5 Checklist to FSIS Notice 65-07)**
 - What constitutes a production lot
 - How samples are selected and collected
 - How decisions are made about when other production lots may be affected by the results (i.e., trend analysis, slaughter dressing data)
- **Concern about supplier/receiver conflict in testing incoming source materials**
 - **Suppliers have warned receivers against testing products upon receipt; FSIS will be following-up with industry to see how the conflict is being resolved**



Other Issues

- **Once the final report on Attachment #3 (Reassessment) and Attachment #5 (Checklist) to FSIS Notice 65-07 is completed, draft compliance guidelines will be developed reflecting information from the final report**
 - **FSIS will make the report and the draft compliance guidelines available to stakeholders, and request comment**
 - **One specific focus will be to assess the FSIS-identified “best practices” relative to HACCP-defined large, small, and very small establishments and for “higher” versus “lower” volume production operations**
- **FSIS intends to re-issue an updated/refined Checklist from FSIS Notice 65-07 by the end of CY2008**
- **FSIS intends to provide stakeholder with timely updates on the % positive rate in all its *E. coli* O157:H7 testing programs in order to keep focus on trends**