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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Refines *E. coli* Testing Methods

FSIS, in collaboration with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, has conducted an extensive validation of a more sensitive enrichment broth for *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 sampling, *Modified Tryptone Soya Broth with Novobiocin* or *Modified Trypticase Soy with Novobiocin* (mTSB+n). The broth was found to support more rapid growth of *E. coli* O157:H7 compared to the broth FSIS laboratories have been using in past years.

This new broth will allow FSIS laboratories greater flexibility in incubation time prior to conducting screening test procedures and, for some samples, allow screening tests to be conducted earlier on the second day of analysis. Based on testing with inoculated samples, FSIS believes the new enrichment procedure may provide increased sensitivity for detection in some samples; therefore, there may be some increase in the number of *E. coli* O157:H7-positive samples found by FSIS laboratories.

The mTSB+n enrichment broth is cost-effective and used by many laboratories around the world. FSIS will begin implementation of this broth in its laboratories starting Jan. 28.

The *Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook* (MLG) chapter 5.03 protocol available on the FSIS Web site will be revised and reissued as MLG chapter 5.04 to describe the use of improved enrichment and confirmatory identification procedures.

Additional revisions to the method protocol include: an updated limit of detection and instructions for preparing beef trim/ground beef component subsamples and environmental sponge samples for analysis.

The refined protocol will be posted on the FSIS Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Microbiological_Lab_Guidebook/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:

Barbados

French Polynesia

Indonesia

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

FSIS Issues Notice

FSIS recently issued Notice 9-08, *Verification of the Annual Reassessment and Establishment Training Requirements Under the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System*.

This notice cancels Notice 35-07 and updates the information found in that notice.

To view this notice, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISNotices/09-08.pdf.

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection to Hold Public Meeting

The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection will hold public meetings on Feb. 5 and 6.

The purpose of the meetings is to address the planned public health-based slaughter inspection system for young chickens, and how a similar approach could be used for inspection in processing and other slaughter establishments.

The meetings will be held from 8:15 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. at the Key Bridge Marriott, 1401 Lee Highway, Arlington, Va. The

Key Bridge Marriott is located three blocks from the Rosslyn Metro Station on Metro's Blue and Orange Lines.

Pre-registration is encouraged. To register online, go to www.fsis.usda.gov. A copy of the agenda and supplementary information will be available prior to the meeting on FSIS' Web site.

The related *Federal Register* notice is on the FSIS Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp.

Agency to Host *E. coli* Regulatory Workshop

FSIS will hold a regulatory education workshop in Dallas, Texas, on Jan. 30 to cover prerequisite programs and FSIS Notices 65-07, 66-07 and 68-07, with special emphasis on *E. coli* O157:H7.

The regulatory education session will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., at the Crowne Plaza Suites-Dallas Park Central, 7800 Alpha Road, Dallas, Texas.

To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747. Online registration forms and information about this session can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/Outreach_Sessions_SVS_Plants/index.asp.

