



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

FSIS Issues Notices

FSIS issued Notice 08-07 on February 2 to provide inspection program personnel with instructions regarding the collection of brain samples for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) ongoing surveillance plan.

This revised notice is a result of changes APHIS has made to its surveillance plan.

The agency also issued Notice 09-07 on February 2 titled, *Export Library Revisions for January 2007*. This notice provides links to the export library revisions covering the month of January. A red asterisk (*) indicates the most recent change in the country's requirements.

Notices 08-07 and 09-07 can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations & Policies/FSIS Notices_Index/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_%20Policies/FSIS_Notices_Index/index.asp).

This notice cancels Notice 51-06, *Sample Collection from Cattle under the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Ongoing Surveillance Program*, and Notice 52-06, *Temporary Suspension of Provision in the Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) Ongoing Surveillance Program*.

FSIS Posts 2006 Microbiological Data on *E. coli* Testing in Raw Ground Beef Samples

FSIS posted on its Web site microbiological data for *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 testing in raw ground beef samples for calendar year 2006.

of the agency's overall system for hazard analysis and critical control point verification.

The 2006 microbiological data on *E. Coli* is available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.Coli_Testing_Results/index.asp.

This testing program was initiated in October 1994 and has become a key component



Inside this Issue

Wisconsin Regulatory Education Session	2
Job Applicant Medical Information Notice	2
Codex Public Meeting	2

Export Requirement Updates



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

Barbados

European Union

Singapore

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

FSIS to Hold Regulatory Education Session in Wisconsin

FSIS will hold a regulatory education session on February 28 for the owners and operators of small and very small plants in Wisconsin.

The session 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 session will be held from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Crowne

Plaza Madison East Towne, 4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wis.

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.

FSIS Issues Notice on Job Applicant Medical Information

FSIS issued a *Federal Register* notice on February 9 titled, *Notice of Request for a New Information Collection (Job Applicant Medical Information)*.

Under 5 *Code of Federal Regulations* 339, the agency is requesting to collect the medical information of applicants to certain positions in the agency to assist FSIS in making a determination of their medical fitness for duty.

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by electronic e-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/2006-0042.htm>.

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 February 22.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information and receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions that will be discussed at the 28th

Continued on page three

How to Keep Food Safe During an Emergency

Question: A snowstorm knocked down the power lines. Can I put the food from the refrigerator and freezer out in the snow?

Answer: No. Frozen food can thaw if it is exposed to the sun's rays even when the temperature is very cold. Refrigerated food may become too warm and foodborne bacteria could grow.

The outside temperature could vary hour by hour and the temperature outside will not protect refrigerated and frozen food.

Additionally, perishable items could be exposed to unsanitary conditions or to animals. Animals may harbor bacteria or disease; never consume food that has come into contact with an animal.

Rather than putting the food outside, consider taking advantage of the cold temperatures by making ice.

Fill buckets, empty milk cartons or cans with water and leave them outside to freeze. Then put the homemade ice in your refrigerator, freezer or coolers.

Codex Public Meeting ...

Continued from page two

Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS), which will be held from March 5 - 9, in Budapest, Hungary.

The public meeting will be held from 10:30 a.m. to noon, in Room 1A002, Harvey Wiley Federal Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Md. 20740.

Agenda items and documents relating to the 28th Session of CCMAS will be available on the Codex Alimentarius Web site at www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp.

Interested parties should submit their comments on this meeting notice. Comments may be submitted by e-mail to Gregory Diachenko, U.S. Delegate, at Gregory.Diachenko@fda.hhs.gov.

For further information about the public meeting, or to request a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations, contact Syed Ali, international issues analyst, FSIS, at (202) 205-7760, or by fax (202) 720-3157.

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