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Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS to Hold Outreach Sessions in Pennsylvania

FSIS will hold outreach sessions for small and very small plants on Tuesday, January 10, in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and on Wednesday, January 11, in Harrisburg, Pa.

The planned sessions are meant to provide a forum to discuss the state of Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point in small and very small plants.

Agency Administrator Dr. Barbara Masters and Office of Field Operations Assistant Administrator Ken Peterson are scheduled to attend both meetings and participate in panel discussions.

The two industry outreach sessions will be held from 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the following locations.

Tuesday, January 10
Woodlands Inn
1073 Highway 315
Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702
(570) 824-9381

Wednesday, January 11
Harrisburg East Holiday Inn
4751 Lindle Road
Harrisburg, Pa. 17111
(717) 939-7841

For more information, contact Program Specialist Sally Fernandez of the Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach Staff at (202) 690-6520.

Inside this Issue

FSIS Releases 2004 Regulatory Sampling Data.....2

New Q & As on FSIS Notice 68-05 Now Available2

IKE Preliminary Scenario Now Available2

Export Requirement Updates



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

Egypt

Hong Kong

Russia

Vietnam

Complete information can be found at: www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/.

Hot Link

Visit http://www.fsis.usda.gov/ophs/nacmcf/2004/NACMCF_Safety-based_Date_Labels_082704.pdf to view the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods' Considerations for Establishing Safety-Based Consume-By Date Labels for Refrigerated Ready-To-Eat Foods.

FSIS Posts 2004 Regulatory Sampling Data on Web Site

Today FSIS posted annually compiled sampling data from its regulatory testing programs. The released results include data from the Agency's non-targeted regulatory testing program for *Salmonella*, and its microbiological ready-to-eat regulatory sampling program.

The testing data can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Microbiology/index.asp>.

FSIS Issues New Q & As on Notice 68-05

FSIS has issued a new set of Q & As concerning FSIS Notice 68-05, *Verification Activities at Establishments that Transport or Receive Cattle Carcasses or Parts with Vertebral Columns that Contain Specified Risk Materials (SRMs)*.

The new Q & As can be viewed on the FSIS Technical Service Center's Web site at: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/HELP/FAQs_TSC/index.asp.

The Technical Service Center serves as FSIS' center for technical assistance, advice and guidance regarding the implementation of national policies, programs, systems and procedures.

If you have additional questions regarding these Q & As or their subject matter, please contact the Technical Service Center at (800) 233-3935.

New IKE Preliminary Scenario Now Available

FSIS has made available the preliminary Interactive Knowledge Exchange (IKE) scenario 07D-05, *Food Defense Verification*, for comment through January 13, 2006.

This scenario provides guidance to inspection program personnel concerning the random performance of food defense verification procedures. In addition, the scenario details how risk-based thought processes can be used by agency personnel to verify food defense procedures.

The scenario can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_Employees/IKE_Comment/index.asp.

If you have questions or comments regarding the preliminary IKE scenario, contact FSIS' Technical Service Center at (800) 233-3935, or by e-mail at ike@fsis.usda.gov.