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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 Issues Notice on Petitions for Rulemaking

On January 12, FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice titled, "Petitions for Rulemaking." This notice proposes to adopt regulations governing the submission to FSIS of petitions for rulemaking.

rule, if adopted, will help to ensure the filing of well-supported petitions that contain the information necessary to proceed with consideration of the requested rulemaking in a timely manner.

The Agency proposed this action to supplement existing non-regulatory guidance on submitting petitions for FSIS to consider requests to issue, amend or repeal regulations administered by the Agency. FSIS expects that this proposed

The Agency is accepting comments until March 13.

This notice is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/00-019P.htm>.

FSIS Issues Notice on Changes in Fees for Meat, Poultry and Egg Products Inspection

FSIS published a notice in the *Federal Register* today titled, "Changes in Fees for Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products Inspection - Fiscal Years 2006-2008." The notice announces FSIS' intention to change the fees that it charges for providing voluntary inspection, identification and certification services, overtime and holiday inspection services, and laboratory services. The Agency is raising these fees to reflect, among other factors, national and locality pay increases for Federal employees and inflation. The Agency is also increasing the annual fee for its Accredited Laboratory Program.

This notice is available on FSIS' Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/03-027F.htm>.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

European Union

Hong Kong

Japan

Mexico

Poland

Vietnam

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

FSIS Issues Notice on Food Labeling; Nutrient Content Claims, Definition of the Term: “Healthy”

On January 11, FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice titled, “Food Labeling; Nutrient Content Claims, Definition of the Term: ‘Healthy’.”

This notice announces that FSIS’ regulations will continue to provide that individual meat and poultry products bearing the claim “healthy” (or any other derivative of the term “health”) must contain no more than 480 milligrams (mg) of sodium; and that meal-type products bearing the claim “healthy” (or any other derivative of the term “health”) must contain no more than 600 mg of sodium.

FSIS is deferring indefinitely, until further notice, implementation of

the requirements that individual meat and poultry products bearing the claim “healthy” (or any other derivative of the term “health”) contain no more than 360 mg of sodium and that meal-type products bearing the claim “healthy” (or any other derivative of the term “health”) contain no more than 480 mg of sodium.

The Agency is accepting comments until February 10.

This notice is available on FSIS’ Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/05-033IF.htm>.

FSIS Issues Directive on Submitting Specimens to Eastern Laboratory

On January 10, FSIS issued Directive 10,230.6, to provide public health veterinarians (PHVs) with information on how to submit specimens for pathological evaluation to the FSIS Eastern Laboratory.

This directive titled, “Submitting Tissue Specimens for Pathological or Diagnostic Microbiological Evaluation to the Laboratory,” provides import inspection program personnel, PHVs and district office personnel instructions on how to determine dispositions and respond to sample requests for pathological or diagnostic microbiological evaluations in import inspection facilities.

A full copy of FSIS Directive 10,230.6 is available on FSIS’ Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FSISDirectives/10230-6.pdf>.