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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Issues Notice on Revised Export Requirements for Mexico for Poultry

FSIS issued Notice 18-06 on March 30, titled, *Revised Export Requirements for Mexico for Fresh/Frozen Poultry*.

The notice informs inspection program personnel that Mexico will require fresh/frozen poultry that comes from flocks or farms from which 59 serological samples have been taken and tested negative for avian influenza by using an ELISA test to be registered in the National Poultry Improvement Plan. The flock and/or farm of origin should also be registered in the National Poultry Improvement Plan.

This notice, which is effective on April 1, is available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/Notice_18-06/index.asp.

FSIS Issues Notice on Determining Net Weight Compliance for Meat and Poultry Products

FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice on March 28, titled, *Determining Net Weight Compliance for Meat and Poultry Products*.

This notice proposes to amend the federal meat and poultry products inspection regulations to have them reference the revised version of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 133.

The handbook contains standards for determining the reasonable variations allowed for the declared net weight on labels of immediate containers of meat and poultry products.

The notice also explains the procedures that should be used to determine the net weight and net weight compliance of meat and poultry products and related definitions.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Malaysia

Mexico

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

Squab Notice Correction

The *Constituent Update* would like to issue a correction to last week's article about FSIS Notice 17-06 regarding squab inspection. A "squab" is a young pigeon from one to about 30 **days** of age, not **years** as was printed.

The notice is available on FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Notice_17-06/index.asp.

FSIS Issues Federal Register Notice ...

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The agency is proposing to consolidate the separate net weight regulations for meat and poultry products in a new *Code of Federal Regulations* part, applicable to both meat and poultry products.

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>

or by electronic mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

This 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/04-041P.htm>.

USDA and Health and Human Services to Hold Public Meeting to Address Codex Committee on Food Labeling

USDA's Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety and the Department of Health and Human Service's Food and Drug Administration will hold a public meeting to provide draft U.S. positions and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the 34th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling of the Codex Alimentarius Commission from May 1-5, in Ottawa, Canada.

The public meeting will be held on April 7, from 9 a.m. to noon, in Room 1A-003 of the Harvey W. Wiley Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, College Park, Md. 20740.

For further information about the public meeting, contact Ellen Matten, international issues analyst, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, at (202) 205-7760.

FSIS Recognized for Annual Increase in eGovernment Customer Satisfaction Scores

FSIS, along with the Web sites of the Internal Revenue Service, FirstGov and the General Service Administration, was recognized nationally for its annual increase in eGovernment customer satisfaction scores

according to a survey produced by the University of Michigan American Consumer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) group.

FSIS re-launched a new search engine, introduced more

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Residue Violator Alert List Available by E-mail Subscription

The Residue Violator Alert List has been added to FSIS' e-mail subscription service. This list contains the names and addresses of parties responsible for repeat drug, pesticide or chemical violations in animals presented for slaughter.

This list will be updated monthly. To view the list, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Residue_Violators_List.pdf.

FSIS to Hold Public Meeting on List of Retail Consignees

FSIS will hold a public meeting to discuss publishing a list of retail consignees associated with meat and poultry product recalls.

The public meeting is scheduled for April 24 from 9:30 a.m. - noon in the cafeteria of the USDA South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20250.

Additional details about the public meeting will be provided in upcoming *Constituent Updates*.

For more information about the agency's proposed rule, go to <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/04-006P.htm>.

Customer Satisfaction Scores ...

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customized e-mail subscription items and launched a new intranet site as part of a comprehensive audience-driven Web strategy.

This new strategy has led to a significant jump in satisfaction in a short period of time and recognition in the ACSI's latest report. In addition, the FSIS Web site currently exceeds all Federal eGov satisfaction benchmarks and meets or exceeds all benchmarks for government and commercial sites.

The ACSI is a cross-industry measure of offline customer satisfaction that measures the

performance of approximately 200 private sector companies, as well as many government agencies.

Scores are calculated based on data gathered from voluntary online surveys of randomly selected site visitors. Each government Web site was rated by its visitors on various components of overall satisfaction.

To view a copy of the report, go to http://www.foreseeresults.com/WhitePapers/ACSI_EGov_Commentary_Mar06.pdf.

Export Tip of the Week

When reviewing a country's export requirements, all products may not be included as eligible or ineligible by an importing country. In fact, many importing countries accept products without additional certification.

Therefore, if an exporter requests a product that is not listed as either eligible or ineligible under FSIS regulations, FSIS Form 9060-5, *Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness*, should be issued.

FSIS employees do not need to provide additional certification statements in the "Remarks" section, nor should a letterhead certificate be issued.

Importing countries usually address only those products where additional certification or other special provisions (i.e., labeling or processing requirements) are required at the port of entry. This is why all products are not listed in the country requirements and why the health certificate should be issued if requested.

Visit FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp to learn more about requirements for exporting products to other countries.