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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Proposes Rule Allowing China to Export Processed Poultry Products

FSIS is proposing to add the People’s Republic of China to the list of countries eligible to export processed poultry and poultry products to the United States.

China is not currently eligible to export poultry products to the United States; however, reviews of China’s laws, regulations and other materials show that the country’s poultry processing system includes requirements equivalent to all provisions in the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) and its implementing regulations.

China will only be eligible to export poultry products processed from birds slaughtered in certified slaughter establishments in other countries eligible to export poultry products to the United States. Products from birds slaughtered in China’s domestic slaughter

establishments are not allowed for export to the United States.

All processed poultry products exported from China to the United States will be subject to reinspection at U.S. ports-of-entry by FSIS inspectors as required by law.

Comments on this proposed rule must be received on or before January 23, 2006.

Further information on the proposed rule can be found in Federal Docket No. 05-012P by visiting FSIS’ Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/05-012P.htm>, or by contacting Sally White, Director, International Equivalence Staff, Office of International Affairs at (202) 720-6400.

***E. Coli* Positive Samples Reported**

The 15th, 16th and 17th *E. coli* O157:H7 positive cases this year were reported from 26 and November 2 in FSIS’ microbiological sampling

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Canada

European Union

Guatemala

Netherlands

United Arab Emirates

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

Positive Cases Found...

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program. The sample for positive 15 was collected in Missouri, the 16th positive sample was collected in Colorado, and the 17th was collected in Pennsylvania.

These reports bring to 277 the overall number of positive samples analyzed since the inception of the program. There

have been 9,426 samples analyzed so far this year; 78,361 samples have been analyzed overall.

For more information about results from the sampling program, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/2005_Ecoli_Positive_Results/index.asp.

FSIS Talks Turkey for the Holidays

FSIS has posted on its Web site information about how to safely roast a turkey for the holiday season.

The Web site includes information on how to safely prepare frozen

or fresh turkeys.

For information on how to safely prepare a turkey, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Lets_Talk_Turkey/index.asp.

FSIS to Review State Inspection Programs

On November 23, FSIS notified state program officials in New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma and South Carolina that the Agency will conduct on-site reviews of the meat and poultry inspection programs in those states beginning in January

2006. FSIS also notified the congressional delegations for each state about the reviews.

In 2003, FSIS began comprehensive reviews of the 28 state meat and poultry inspection programs.

Reminder for Meeting on Amenability

A public meeting to discuss possible changes to the jurisdiction over certain foods that contain meat and poultry will be held by FSIS and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Food and Drug Administration (FDA) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. December 15 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont, Ill.

Amenability is the only issue

that will be discussed at this meeting. Seating is limited. Anyone wishing to attend is encouraged to register in advance at http://register.grad.usda.gov/conferences/fda/fda-fsis_reg_form.cfm.

FSIS encourages those interested in attending to indicate their desire to submit comments at the meeting at the time of registration.