

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

Update on State Reviews

Purpose

The purpose of this update is to summarize review results of 28 self-assessment submissions and 10 on-site reviews using the new Federal review manual and procedures. Detailed review findings covering each of the nine review components are presented in two additional reports: Part I. Self-Assessment Report and Part II. On-Site Report.¹

Background

In 2003, FSIS began comprehensive reviews of State meat and poultry inspection (MPI) programs using a new review manual – the FSIS Manual for State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Reviews. The manual provides instruction for conducting reviews of State programs to determine whether State requirements are “at least equal to” Federal requirements for ensuring that meat and poultry products are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled, and packaged.

The implementation of the manual is part of the Agency’s effort to update and strengthen policy and procedures for reviewing State MPI programs. The review procedures detailed in the manual consist of FSIS review teams making initial determinations based on States’ self-assessment submissions, followed by on-site reviews that compare the self-assessment to the implementation. This forms the basis for final determinations.

Discussion

The first part of the methodology – initial determinations based on States’ self-assessments – has been completed for 27 of 28 State programs. The second part of the methodology – final determinations based on FSIS on-site reviews – has been completed for 12 of the 28 State programs. Nine of the states have been determined to be “at least equal to” – Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Wisconsin, Delaware, North Dakota, Alabama, South Dakota, Vermont, and Ohio – the others are in progress.

Twenty-seven of 28 State programs received an initial determination of “at least equal to” based on nine review components. In addition, 10 States that were reviewed on-site received final determinations of “at least equal to.” The comprehensive review process will not be completed until the remaining State programs receive on-site reviews. FSIS intends to have the remainder of the states completed in July 2006.

¹ FSIS conducted on-site reviews in four additional states –Iowa, Georgia, Utah, and Wyoming – in October 2005, and plans to conduct on-site reviews in the remaining twelve states – this fiscal year. Six on-site reviews have not been completed.

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