

# National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

## Update on Risk-Based Sampling

### Purpose

This briefing paper is provided to update the Committee on the actions that the Agency has taken regarding the June 16-17, 2005, Committee recommendations.

### Background

In June 2005, FSIS presented to the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) an issue concerning how FSIS could more effectively develop risk-based verification testing programs addressing the unique considerations associated with small and very small plants. The Sub-Committee prepared a report that was accepted by the Full Committee on June 17, 2005.

### Status

The following is a follow-up from FSIS regarding the status of risk-based verification testing:

*Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat meat and poultry product:

- FSIS completed a test phase of the surface testing program in 14 plants between July and September 2005. This test phase was intended to ascertain the policy considerations that might be needed prior to nationwide implementation of the program in October 2005. This program will test for the presence of *Listeria monocytogenes* on food contact and non-food contact surfaces in RTE establishments.
- FSIS targeted high risk operations and focused both on the validation and execution of the food safety system and on the results of the expanded testing addressing food-contact surfaces and the environment.
- As a consequence of the new risk-based program:
  - FSIS found food-contact surfaces positive for *Listeria monocytogenes* when product tested negative.
  - There are considerable differences in the degree of validation provided by establishments in support of their food safety systems.
  - FSIS is further assessing the results of the program in order to incorporate helpful suggestions in a new Compliance Guideline.
- FSIS has submitted a new production volume survey [Form 10,240-1] to OMB for clearance that reflects changes from this past year's use of the form. Establishments operating under the Interim Final Rule 9CFR430 are required to

- use this form to tell FSIS which alternative method for controlling *Listeria monocytogenes* they have adopted as well as the type and volume of production.
- FSIS will be assessing how to incorporate more of the issues identified by NACMPI into the risk-based verification testing sampling structure.

*Escherichia coli* O157:H7

- FSIS expects to begin a risk-based testing program including manufacturing trimmings in Spring 2006. FSIS will investigate ways to collect risk-based factors, as recommended by NACMPI, by FSIS inspection personnel as a interim measure before receiving OMB approval to collect relevant information from the industry.

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