

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 20 on-site reviews¹ using the new Federal review manual and procedures. On-site reviews in four of the remaining eight States were conducted in April 2006, with the remaining four States scheduled for July 2006.

Background

In 2003, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) began comprehensive reviews of State meat and poultry inspection (MPI) programs using the FSIS Manual for State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Reviews. The new 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 implementation. This two-step process forms the basis for final determinations.

Status

The first round of on-site reviews using the new manual (provided for in FSIS Directive 5720.2 Revision 3, 11/16/04) will be completed in August 2006¹ and final determinations will be made for all 28 states by the end of 2006.

In addition, continuing our annual process, the Program Review Staff (PRS) in the Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review is updating the review manual and accompanying directive based upon the lessons learned and input from other Agency stakeholders and State Directors. The revised manual will be issued in sufficient time to provide updated information to States for completing their annual self-assessment submissions this fall. Then, PRS will review the self-assessment submissions, make initial determinations, and begin a new cycle of on-site reviews.

¹FSIS has completed on-site reviews in Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, Wisconsin, Delaware, Minnesota, North Dakota, Alabama, South Dakota, Vermont, Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Georgia, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Wyoming, Utah and New Mexico. FSIS conducted on-site reviews in Indiana, Louisiana, Maine, and West Virginia during April 2006, and has the final four States (Texas, Arizona, Virginia, and Montana) scheduled for on-site reviews in July 2006.

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