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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Returns to Normal Levels of Pathogen Testing on Canadian Product

In a letter to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) on Nov. 27, FSIS stated that the agency would resume normal levels of product examinations of exported Canadian meat, poultry and egg products at import houses in the United States effective Nov. 28.

The return to the normal testing frequency comes after FSIS completed two audits in Canada earlier this month. One audit focused on the CFIA's investigation into unsafe practices employed by Ranchers Beef Ltd., and recall events associated with that establishment. This audit indicated that the unsafe practices employed by Ranchers Beef Ltd. were not used by other Canadian establishments.

The second audit was a follow-up review of seven Canadian establishments that were either delisted or received Notices of Intent to Delist in an earlier FSIS audit. These establishments were found to have sufficient corrective actions in place to address concerns found in the earlier audit.

FSIS has also resumed normal levels of testing for *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella* in ready-to-eat products.

The agency will continue testing of raw ground beef and trim normally sent for grinding. Testing for *E. coli* O157:H7 will proceed at levels to be determined after an analysis is completed for eligible imported beef products from all equivalent countries.

To view a copy of the letter, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Canada_O157_Resume_Normal_Testing_Letter.pdf.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Japan

Taiwan

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

Don't Forget!

The agency will hold an outreach seminar on statistical process control procedures Dec. 5 from 10 to 11 a.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. EST. To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747 or send an e-mail to OutreachTSC@fsis.usda.gov.

Information about the upcoming Web seminar can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/Outreach_Sessions_SVS_Plants/index.asp.

Regulatory Education Workshops for Small and Very Small Plants

As part of the agency's ongoing initiative to enhance outreach to small and very small plants, FSIS is holding a regulatory education workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah, on Dec. 4.

This specific workshop will cover prerequisite programs and FSIS Notices 65-07, 66-07 and 68-07, with special emphasis on *E. coli*.

The regulatory education session will be held from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel, 215 W. South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah.

To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747. Online registration forms and information about this session can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/Outreach_Sessions_SVS_Plants/index.asp.

FSIS Issues Notice

FSIS released Notice 78-07, titled "*Documentation of Non-Compliance in Egg Product Plants*," on Nov. 28.

This notice instructs inspection program personnel at egg product plants how to document non-compliances in the proper format.

To establish consistency within the agency, inspection program personnel are now to document non-compliances on FSIS letterhead and attach the completed document to the applicable PY-203, "*Daily Report of Plant Operations*," for liquid egg product processing plants or PY-159, "*Daily Report of Egg Drying Operations*," for dried egg product plants.

Notices are available on FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&policies/FSIS_Notices_Index/index.asp.