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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Makes Changes to Phone System

FSIS has made changes to the telephone system in its Omaha Neb., offices to improve customer service and address recent changes to the Policy Development Division (PDD), formerly the Technical Services Center, and other program areas located in the facility.

Through a series of menus and sub-menus, callers are now informed on how to reach the most suitable contact for their question. Callers are also advised to listen carefully to the new menu before choosing their option.

Within the Office of Policy, Program and Employee Development (OPPED), the PDD answers technical questions related to general domestic inspection policies and on FSIS issuances, such as directives, notices and interactive knowledge exchange (IKE) scenarios.

Calls related to international inspection policies, such as export-related questions, are directed to the Office of International Affairs (OIA). OIA staff located at the Omaha facility will answer these questions and can be reached

by following the appropriate telephone menu prompts.

Callers with labeling and sampling questions should be aware of the following changes:

- OPPED Labeling and Program Delivery Division (LPDD) in Washington, D.C., responds to labeling questions
- OPPED Risk Management Division (RMD) in Washington, D.C., responds to sampling questions

Calls are automatically forwarded free of charge to LPPD and RMD staff when customers use the PDD toll-free number (800-233-3935) and follow the menu options.

PDD staff can be contacted at 402-344-5000 or 800-233-3935, Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m., Central time. The PDD is closed on federal holidays. After Dec. 31, 2007, a PDD contact person will no longer be available outside of these business hours.

Callers can also find additional information and answers to commonly asked questions on

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Export Requirement Updates



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

European Union

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

Codex Public Meeting

USDA's Office of Food Safety and the Agricultural Marketing Service will hold a public meeting Jan. 17, 2008, to provide information and receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions for the Eighth Session of the Milk and Milk Products Committee of the Codex Alimentarius Commission.

Agenda items and related documents will be available at www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp.

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the FSIS Web site. The "I Want To ..." box on the right side of the home page provides quick access to frequently requested information. It also includes

resources such as "Ask a Food Safety Question" through Ask Karen and "AskFSIS" to ask inspection-related questions.

FSIS to Hold *E. coli* Outreach Workshops for Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS will hold *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) outreach workshops on Jan. 9, 2008, for the owners and operators of small and very small plants in New Mexico, Missouri, California, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

The workshops will cover prerequisite programs and FSIS Notices 65-07, 66-07 and 68-07.

The outreach workshops will be held at the following locations:

- Radisson Hotel Albuquerque, 2500 Carlisle Blvd., NE, Albuquerque, N.M., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.;
- Aladdin Holiday Inn Downtown Kansas City, 1215 Wyandotte St., Kansas City, Mo., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.;

- Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites, 4300 Bangs Ave., Modesto, Calif., from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.;

- Crowne Plaza Oklahoma City, 2945 Northwest Expressway, Okla., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; and

- Holiday Inn Downtown Shreveport, 102 Lake St., Shreveport, La., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

To register by phone, call 800-336-3747. Online registration forms and information about upcoming sessions can be found at www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Outreach_Sessions_SVS_Plants/index.asp.

The *FSIS Constituent Update* will not publish on December 28, 2007, or January 4, 2008.

The staff would like to wish you a happy and healthy holiday season.