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Food Safety and
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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Posts Transcript; Continues to Solicit Comments on RBI Report

FSIS has posted on its Web site the transcript from its January 10 meeting with industry, consumer and employee groups regarding the December 2006 report on risk-based inspection. The agency continues to solicit comments on the report compiled by Resolve, Inc., to summarize and synthesize stakeholder input regarding risk-based inspection.

consumers, industry, state inspection agencies, public health groups and other stakeholders.

FSIS is accepting comments on the report until February 12. Comments can be submitted by e-mail to RiskBasedInspection@fsis.usda.gov or by fax to (202) 690-6519.

In its efforts to develop a more robust, risk-based inspection system, FSIS secured the services of Resolve, Inc., a national non-profit organization, to help with gathering input from employees,

The meeting transcript and report can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/risk_based_inspection/index.asp.

FSIS Issues Notice on Jurisdiction over Flavor Products

FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice on January 26 to clarify that flavor products, e.g., flavor bases, and blended and reaction/process flavors, with greater than three percent raw meat or poultry, or two percent or more cooked meat or poultry, in their formulation are amenable to FSIS jurisdiction.

The agency is accepting comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by e-mail at fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov.

The notice is available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp.

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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

Mexico

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

FSIS Issues Directives and Notice

FSIS recently amended two directives and issued a notice to enable the agency to carry out its mission of protecting public health.

- Directive 7120.1, Amendment 10, *Safe and Suitable Ingredients Used in the Production of Meat and Poultry Products*. This directive identifies the substances that have been approved in the *Code of Federal Regulations* for use in meat and poultry products as food additives, in generally recognized as safe notices, pre-market notifications and in letters conveying acceptability determinations.

- Directive 12,600.1, Revision 1, Amendment 1, *Voluntary Reimbursable Inspection Services*. This notice addresses non-mandatory inspection services

for which the agency receives reimbursement for voluntary reimbursable services.

- Notice 05-07, *Revised Documentation Related to Specified Risk Materials and Other Related Regulations*. This notice emphasizes the importance of citing every relevant regulation on FSIS Form 5400-4, *Noncompliance Record (NR)*, and, in particular, stresses that inspection program personnel should always cite the appropriate sections of 9 *Code of Federal Regulations* 310.22 when a noncompliance involves specified risk materials.

The directives and notice are available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/index.asp.

FSIS Posts Summary Report of State Program Reviews

FSIS posted on its Web site the summary report of state program reviews. The report summarizes the results from comprehensive reviews of 28 states that currently operate meat and poultry programs.

The reviews were initiated in 2003 due to an increased agency emphasis on review of all FSIS programs and activities and because report language for the 2002 Farm Bill called for USDA to provide Congress with

a report on a full review of state inspection programs.

As part of this effort, FSIS created a review manual that contains a two-part methodology for the state reviews: annual self assessments by the states and FSIS on-site reviews.

The summary report is available on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Review_of_State_Programs.pdf.

Export Tip of the Week

Export stamps should only be applied to product containers. They should not be applied to export certificates or accompanying documentation such as letterhead certificates.

There are only three exceptions to this rule, i.e., the European Union, Russia and Switzerland.

These countries require that export documents carry the export stamp.

Under no circumstances should embossed seals be applied to health certificates or accompanying documentation.

If inspection officials receive a request to apply the export stamp or embossed seal to export documents for countries other than those identified above, the country requirements should be carefully reviewed to determine if a change in procedure has occurred.

If a change in procedure has not occurred, the request should be denied.

For further information, please contact FSIS' Office of International Affairs at (202) 720-3473.

FSIS to Hold Regulatory Education Sessions for Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS will hold regulatory education sessions on January 31 and on February 2, 6 and 28 for the owners and operators of small and very small plants.

The sessions will cover a regulatory walk-through of sanitation standard operating procedures and the hazard analysis and critical control point and rules of practice regulations. The agency has moved forward with plans to expand the regulatory education sessions.

The regulatory education sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Wednesday, January 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the High Plains Power, 230 West Main, Riverton, Wyo.;
- Friday, February 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Wyoming

Department of Agriculture Conference Room, 2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyo;

- Tuesday, February 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Doubletree Albuquerque, 201 Marquette Avenue, Albuquerque, N.M.; and

- Wednesday, February 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Madison East Towne, 4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wis.

To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747.

Online registration forms and information about upcoming sessions can be found at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/Outreach_Sessions/SVS_Plants/index.asp.

FSIS Posts Food Defense Plan for Meat and Poultry Slaughter Processing Plants

FSIS posted on its Web site a guide for developing a food defense plan for meat and poultry slaughter processing plants.

This guide was developed in consultation with very small, small and large meat and poultry processors. The guide provides

an easy, practical and achievable three-step method for creating a food defense plan.

The guide can be viewed on FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Small_Very_Small_Plant_Outreach/index.asp.