

## FSIS Scheduling Criteria for Routine *Lm* Risk-Based (RLm) Sampling Program

Before the month when samples are to be collected FSIS uses a statistical algorithm to generate a risk ranking of establishments producing post-lethality exposed ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products. The following criteria are then used to identify establishments from the risk ranking to be tested for *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) in food contact, environmental, and product samples under the Routine *Lm* Risk-Based (RLm) Sampling Program:

1. Once RLm sampling has been conducted in an establishment, that establishment will not be eligible for scheduling again for a 24 month period.
2. If there is a current month positive result from any FSIS *Lm* sampling project, the Agency conducts Food Safety Assessments (FSAs) and Intensified Verification Testing (IVT) at the establishment:
  - a. If positive results are found during the IVT, the RLm will not be scheduled until 6 months after the IVT and FSA and any accompanying regulatory actions are complete.
  - b. If the IVT test results were negative, RLm sampling would revert back to the 24 month sampling cycle.
3. RLm sampling at an establishment will also not be scheduled for 6 months after closeout of an *Lm*-related Notice of Intended Enforcement (NOIE), suspension, or other enforcement action.
4. Previously, FSIS did not schedule RLm testing in more than one establishment operated by the same corporation in the same month. This restriction will not apply in FY08.
5. Collecting RLm samples will no longer take precedence over the other RTE sampling programs (i.e., ALLRTE and RTE001). If FSIS *Lm* sampling projects are scheduled at the same establishment over the same time period, all samples will be collected as scheduled.