

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, DC

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# FSIS NOTICE

83-07

12/11/07

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## PLANNED DEVELOPMENT OF FSIS DIRECTIVES AND NOTICES FOR EGG PRODUCTS INSPECTION

### I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to provide Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) inspection program personnel with information on the Agency's intention to develop and issue FSIS notices, directives, and guidance material on the policies and instructions found in the Egg Products Inspector's Handbook and other Agency-issued guidance documents.

### II. BACKGROUND

The Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA), Public Law 91-597, was passed by Congress in 1970. The resulting mandatory inspection of the processing of liquid, frozen, and dried egg products is to protect the health of consumers of these products. The EPIA and its associated regulations (9 CFR parts 590 and 592) set forth requirements to ensure that eggs and egg products are wholesome, not otherwise adulterated, and properly labeled and packaged. The basic instructions that FSIS inspection program personnel have used to perform their inspection duties are in the Egg Products Inspector's Handbook that was originally developed by the Agricultural Marketing Service. After taking over egg products inspection, FSIS has clarified many of these policies and issued further instructions in FSIS notices and directives.

The Egg Products Inspector's Handbook is not available in electronic form, and it does not follow the Agency's format for issuing instructions to inspection program personnel. As a result, inspection program personnel may question the accuracy of the instructions and the policies contained in the manual. Because FSIS recognizes the instructions contained in this document as policy, there is a need to update the information contained in the document. Therefore, the Agency plans to issue FSIS notices and directives that convey, clarify, and update the information contained in the Egg Products Inspector's Handbook. FSIS intends to expedite this process and to begin issuing these directives and notices over the next several months.

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 1/1/09

**OPI:** OPPED

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### III. TOPICS/POLICIES TO BE ISSUED

The Egg Products Inspector's Handbook covers numerous inspection matters. The following are some of the planned topics and policies that Agency issuances will cover:

1. Basis for Service (Grant of Inspection)
  - a. Mandatory egg products inspection - continuous inspection
  - b. Off-premise freezer approval
  - c. Voluntary inspection of egg products
2. Inspection Program Personnel Duties
  - a. Job description
  - b. Multiple shift plants
  - c. Safety issues (tankers, drilling frozen product, confined spaces)
3. Dried Egg Products Inspection
  - a. Basis of service – intermittent coverage
  - b. Plant and inspector responsibilities
  - c. Operations/sanitation requirements
4. Blueprint/Equipment Approval and Requirements
5. Plant Inspection/Sanitation Requirements
  - a. Chemical compounds/proprietary
  - b. Pasteurization
  - c. Formulation
6. Administrative
  - a. Egg products volume report (monthly)
  - b. Weekly production report
  - c. Daily inspection reports
7. Maintaining Compliance
  - a. Plant and inspector responsibilities
  - b. Corrective actions
    - (1) Directly affecting product
    - (2) Not directly affecting product
  - c. Appeals
  - d. Regulatory control action
  - e. Denial of Services – 9 CFR 590.160
  - f. Documenting noncompliances
8. Product Packaging/Final Inspection
  - a. Net weights/containers
  - b. Organoleptic and condition inspection
  - c. Certification

9. Labeling
  - a. Label approval – mandatory features
  - b. Formulation
  - c. Standards of identity
  - d. Extended shelf-life policy
  
10. Sampling (Liquid, Frozen and Dried)
  - a. Aseptic sampling
  - b. Plant surveillance sampling
  - c. FSIS monitoring sampling
  - d. FSIS residue sampling
  - e. Certification sampling
  
11. Adulterated product
  - a. Handling of *Salmonella*-positive product
  - b. Handling of inedible egg product
  
12. Special Processing
  - a. Hard-cooked shell eggs
  - b. Processing Ova

As notices and directives are issued, the applicable section of the Egg Products Inspector's Handbook will be cancelled.

FSIS has also learned that some inspection program personnel may not have access to a complete or current copy of the Egg Products Inspector's Handbook. Inspection program personnel who do not have this access may request an updated copy of the Egg Products Inspector's Handbook by sending an email to the Policy Development Division (formerly the Technical Service Center) at:

<http://askfsis.custhelp.com/>

In the "Subject" line state, "Request for Updated Egg Products Inspector's Handbook." In the body of the email request, please include your name, street mailing address, and a contact phone number.

Refer questions through supervisory channels to the Policy Development Division at 1-800-233-3935.



Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy, Program, and Employee Development