

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

# FSIS NOTICE

86-07

12/19/07

## NEW SAMPLING CODE FOR *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 TESTING IN RAW GROUND BEEF

Beginning on January 1, 2008, FSIS will initiate an enhanced risk-based sampling and testing program for *E. coli* O157:H7 in raw ground beef. The new risk-based sampling program will take into account establishment volume and whether the establishment has had any FSIS or Agriculture Marketing Service positive results within the past 120 days.

**NOTE:** Generally, under this new program, which will be designated as MT43, inspection program personnel can expect to collect a minimum of 4 samples and up to 24 samples annually. The MT43 program is independent of the MT04 follow-up testing, which results from an establishment being implicated in an *E. coli* O157:H7-positive production lot.

When FSIS initiates this risk-based sampling and testing program, the project code in block 14 of FSIS Form 10,210-3 will be MT43 rather than MT03. Therefore, starting January 1, 2008, sample request forms for raw ground beef that FSIS will test for *E. coli* O157:H7 will have the MT43 code. Accordingly, these sample results will be posted in LEARN using the new MT43 code. Inspection program personnel are to continue to submit raw ground beef samples for any MT03 sample request forms that have an open sample collection period.

**NOTE:** There are no changes to existing sample collection and shipping instructions. Also, when inspection program personnel use issuances that reference MT03 samples, they assume that any instructions apply to MT43 samples.



Assistant Administrator  
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