



Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Makes Some Changes in its Laboratory Testing Methods

In an effort to modernize laboratory methodology for chemical residue analysis, the FSIS laboratory system will be replacing the screening aspect of the 7-plate bioassay with a multi-residue method as a screening tool. This will be referred to as the Screening and Confirmation of Animal Drug Residues by UHPLC-MS-MS (ultra high performance liquid chromatography – tandem mass spectrometry).

This new method covers multiple veterinary drug classes, including sulfonamides, anti-inflammatory drugs, beta-agonists, and antibiotics, and is applicable to porcine and bovine kidney at this time. This method is to be posted in the FSIS Chemistry Laboratory Guidebook on FSIS’ website with an effective date of Feb. 17.

Another FSIS CLG method, Screening of Sulfonamides by Automated Robotic Extraction and Thin Layer Chromatography (TLC), has been expanded to include muscle and liver in both sheep and goat. This information is to be posted as well in the guidebook once finalized. The effective date will be no earlier than Feb. 24.

To review the laboratory guidebook www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Chemistry_Lab_Guidebook/index.asp.

Inside this Issue

Humane Handling Training Resources Available	2
Implementation for Nutrition Labeling Rule Next Week	2
Codex Public Meeting	3
Comment Period Extended for Proposed Labeling Rule	3

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Volume 14, Issue 8
February 24, 2012



Export Requirement Updates



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

European Union

Malaysia

Mexico

Russia

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

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Office.

Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

Assistant Administrator
Carol Blake

Executive Staff
Brian Mabry, Acting CPA Director
Greg DiNapoli, Deputy Director

Editor
Ndidi A. Mojay

Assistant Editor
Alexandra Tarrant

Editor-at-Large
Joan Lindemberger

Humane Handling Training Resources Available On-line

FSIS recently issued humane handling training using a situation-based approach. This training includes two modules: one focuses on animal handling from truck unloading through entrance to the stunning area and the other covers stunning and post-stunning situations.

In both training modules, participants are presented with specific situations at livestock slaughter establishments. The situation-based training helps participants to be able to: verify humane-related regulatory compliance, identify humane-related regulatory noncompliance, determine whether a noncompliance is egregious and select appropriate actions to be taken.

There are two guides for each module; a participant and facilitator guide. Discussing the specifics of each situation allows participants to gain a thorough understanding of the proper response.

For more information and to access the situation-based participant and facilitator guides, visit www.fsis.usda.gov/FSIS_Employees/Regional_Training/index.asp.

Nutrition Labeling Rule to be Implemented in March

Next week, FSIS will implement a final rule that will require nutrition labeling of the major cuts of single-ingredient, raw meat and poultry products and ground or chopped meat and poultry products.

The *Federal Register* notice and other related documents, including examples of labels, can be found on the FSIS website at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Interim_&_Final_Rules/index.asp.

Get Answers at *AskFSIS*

AskFSIS is a web-based technology and policy question-and-answer forum on topics such as exporting, labeling, inspection, programs and procedures.

In addition, *AskFSIS* offers Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds that link back to the Q&As. To view recently posted topics, visit <http://askfsis.custhelp.com/>.

Ingredients of Public Health Concern

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1751

Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli*

Weekly updates for the agency's raw beef *E. coli* sampling program are posted to the FSIS website.

For comparative previous and current year results, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.coli_Testing_Results/index.asp.

Register for Codex Public Meeting on Methods of Analysis and Sampling

FSIS and FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (CFSAN) are hosting a public meeting to receive public comments and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 33rd Session of the Codex Committee on Methods of Analysis and Sampling (CCMAS) in Budapest, Hungary.

The public meeting will be held on Feb. 28, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the FDA, CFSAN Harvey Wiley Building, 5100 Paint Branch Parkway, Room 1A-002, College Park, MD 20740.

Some items scheduled for discussion include: endorsement of methods of analysis in codex standards; principles for the use of sampling and testing in international food trade; and developing a discussion paper on provisions for proprietary methods.

Documents and agenda items related to the 44th Session of the CCMAS will be accessible at the Codex website at www.codexalimentarius.org. For more information about the public meeting, contact Marie Maratos at (202) 690-4795 or marie.maratos@fsis.usda.gov.

Comment Period on Proposed Rule for Labeling Extended

FSIS proposed a rule on Dec. 5, 2011, that will allow establishments to label a broader range of products without first submitting the label to the agency for approval. The comment period, originally scheduled to close last week, Feb. 3, 2012, will now close on March 3, 2012.

The extension was granted to allow sufficient time for industry members to: (1) develop comments comprehensively addressing important proposed changes to the prior label approval system; and (2) assemble, analyze and submit data establishments have collected on their experience with the prior label approval system and generic labeling.

Individuals are invited to submit comments electronically through the Federal *eRulemaking* Portal at www.regulations.gov. Comments may also be mailed to USDA, FSIS, OPPD, RIMD, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza III, 355 E St., S.W., Rm. 8-164, Washington, D.C. 20024-3221. All items submitted must include the docket number FSIS-2005-0016.