

Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

USDA to Hold Public Meeting for the Codex Committee on Food Labeling

FSIS is hosting a public meeting to receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 40th Session of the Codex Committee on Food Labeling (CCFL), which will be held in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

The public meeting will be held on April 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Jamie L. Whitten Building, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 107-A, Washington, D.C. 20250.

During the meeting, the committee will discuss:

- Proposed draft revision of the Guidelines for Use of Nutrition and Health Claims: Additional Conditions for Nutrient Content Claims and Comparative Claims;
- Draft definition of nutrient reference values for inclusion in the Guidelines for Nutrition Labeling;
- Requirements for mandatory nutrition labeling; and
- Guidelines for the production, processing, labeling and marketing of organically produced foods.

To submit written comments about the 40th Session of the CCFL, contact Barbara Schneeman at the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, FDA, 5100 Paint Branch Pkwy. (HFS-800), College Park, MD 20740 or at barbara.schneeman@fda.hhs.gov.

For more information about the public meeting, contact Doreen Chen-Moulec at (202) 205-7760 or uscodex@fsis.usda.gov. Documents and agenda items related to the 40th Session of the CCFL are accessible on the Codex website at www.codexalimentarius.org.

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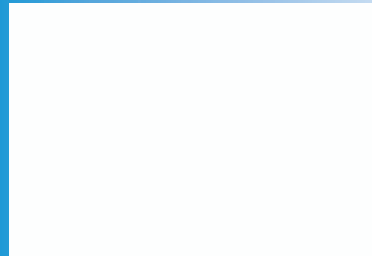
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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Japan

South Africa

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.

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Codex Public Meeting on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Food

FSIS and the FDA will hold a public meeting to receive comments on agenda items and draft U.S. positions to be discussed at the 20th Session of the Codex Committee on Residues of Veterinary Drugs in Foods (CCRVDF), which will be held in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

The public meeting will be held on April 23 from 1 to 4 p.m. ET in the Jamie L. Whitten Bldg., USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Rm. 107-A, Washington, D.C. 20250. Documents and agenda items related to the 20th Session of the CCRVDF are available on the Codex website at www.codexalimentarius.org.

For more information or to submit written comments about the 20th Session of the CCRVDF, contact Kevin Greenlees at (240) 276-8214 or kevin.greenlees@fda.hhs.gov.

For more information about the public meeting, contact Kenneth Lowery at (202) 690-4042 or kenneth.lowery@fsis.usda.gov.

USDA Seeks Comments on Proposed Rule for Poultry Slaughter Inspection

The deadline to submit public comments for the Modernization of Poultry Slaughter Inspection Proposed Rule is April 26.

Comments can be submitted through the Federal *eRulemaking* Portal at www.regulations.gov or by mail to USDA, FSIS, OPPD, RIMD, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza III, Rm 8-163, Mailstop 3782, 355 E St., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250.

All submissions must include the agency name and docket number FSIS-2011-0012.

Almanza Writes Blog on Proposed Chicken Inspection Policy

The *Huffington Post* today published on its blog an entry by FSIS Administrator Al Almanza titled "Setting the Record Straight on the Proposed Chicken Inspection Policy." Almanza wrote the piece in response to the misinformation in the media over the past few weeks regarding FSIS' proposal to modernize inspection at poultry slaughter plants. The text of the entry is on the FSIS website at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_041312_01/index.asp.

Webinars Available for Generic Labeling Approval Processes

The agency will soon implement a generic labeling system that will allow establishments to label a broader range of products without first submitting the label to FSIS for approval.

FSIS will host webinars on this topic on April 24 and May 22 at 2 p.m. ET. To access the webinar, go to <https://connect16.uc.att.com/usda>.

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>.

Sanitation SOP Procedure - Definition

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1763

Sanitation SOP Procedure - Frequency

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/1764

FSIS to Launch Label Submission and Approval System

The Labeling and Program Delivery Division is completing its development of the Label Submission and Approval System. The launch of this system will have a significant impact on the speed and accuracy of label review, as well as the ability to develop data-specific reports based on labeling information.

While the system will not check labels automatically for errors, it will scan for some common errors in the label submission process, including illegible labels, missing information on the transmittal form and missing supporting documentation. This will help to improve the label submission process.

The system will also include a feature that will help submitters determine whether a label can be generically approved or if it must be submitted to FSIS for approval. To use the system, users will need to have level 2 e-Authentication. Look for additional information in future issues of the *Constituent Update*.

Food Safety PSAs Available on YouTube



As part of the *Food Safe Families* campaign, USDA has posted public service announcements (PSAs) called “Check Your Steps”—“Clean, Separate, Cook and Chill.”

PSAs, entertaining depictions of the four key safe food handling behaviors, urge parents to keep their families safe from food poisoning while delivering clear steps to reduce their risk.

Go to www.youtube.com/user/USDAFoodSafety and check out the YouTube USDA Food Safety Channel.

Visit USDA’s Blog

Every day, the USDA Blog shares something new about USDA’s expansive mission. The blog provides a rich and diverse look at the work within the department, spanning the nation—and even the world—and highlights the breadth of USDA programs and the role they play in the lives of every American.

Go to <http://blogs.usda.gov> and see what’s happening within the agency and across the department.

FSIS Policy Update

FSIS issues notices and directives to protect public health. The following policy updates were recently issued:

Directive 12,600.2 - Revision 1, Reimbursable Overtime Inspection Services at Meat and Poultry Establishments

Directive 7120.1 - Revision 11, Safe and Suitable Ingredients Used in the Production of Meat, Poultry and Egg Products

All notices and directives are available at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp.

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.

NACMCF Seeks Nominations for Members

USDA is seeking applications and nominations for membership to the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. Membership is encouraged for individuals with scientific expertise in the fields of epidemiology, food technology, microbiology (food, clinical and predictive), risk assessment, infectious disease, biostatistics and other related sciences.

Persons from academia, industry, consumer groups, state and federal government, as well as all other interested persons with such expertise, are invited to submit nominations. Members who are not federal government employees will be appointed to serve as non-compensated special government employees (SGEs). SGEs will be subject to appropriate conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct.

For consideration, submit a resume and USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755. The resume or curriculum vitae must be limited to five, one-sided pages and should include educational background, expertise and a list of select publications. For submissions received that are more than five, one-sided pages in length, only the first five pages will be reviewed. USDA Advisory Committee Membership Background Information form AD-755 is available at www.ocio.usda.gov/forms/doc/AD-755.pdf.

Nomination packages can be mailed to Secretary Tom Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250, Attn: National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods. Nominations must be received by April 23. Self nominations are also welcome.

For additional information, contact Karen Thomas-Sharp, Advisory Committee Specialist, at (202) 690-6620 or karen.thomas-sharp@fsis.usda.gov. To read the *Federal Register* notice, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2012-0010.htm.

Food Safety Discovery Zone!

Visit the USDA Food Safety Discovery Zone. See where we've been and watch for announcements of upcoming events.

For dates, times and more information, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/Food_Safety_Education/Mobile_Events_by_Date/index.asp.