



Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

NACMCF Reestablished Under New Charter

FSIS announced this week that the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) has been re-chartered to add a consumer group representative.

Established in 1988, NACMCF formulates positions on the development of microbiological criteria, the review and evaluation of epidemiological and risk assessment data and methodologies for assessing microbiological hazards in foods. The committee provides recommendations to the Secretaries of Agriculture and Health and Human Services (HHS) on microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed. That work includes criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether foods have been adequately and appropriately processed.

“NACMCF provides valuable information and recommendations to FSIS that further promote our food safety and foodborne illness prevention actions,” said FSIS Administrator Al Almanza.

Members are appointed by the secretary of Agriculture in consult with the secretary of HHS, along with the Departments of Commerce and Defense. There are currently 18 members; an additional 12 members will be appointed in 2011. The balance of the membership consists of government and non-government scientists acting under special appointment.

Additional information, including the current charter for the NACMCF, is available at www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/NACMCF/index.asp. Individuals may also contact Karen Thomas-Sharp at (202) 690-6620.

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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:

Mexico

Peru

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**

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Public Meeting to Review Positions of Codex Committee on Food Hygiene

The Office of Food Safety announced a public meeting to draft U.S. positions and receive comments on agenda items for discussion at the 42nd session of the Codex Committee on Food Hygiene (CCFH) to be held in Kampala, Uganda.

The public meeting is scheduled for Nov. 2, from 1 to 4 p.m. at USDA's Whitten Building, Room 107-A, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C.

To participate through teleconference, dial (866) 692-3158 and give the passcode 5986642. A complete agenda and documents relating to the 42nd session of CCFH will be available at www.codexalimentarius.net/web/current.jsp. For more information contact Barbara McNiff at (202) 690-4719 or barbara.mcniff@fsis.usda.gov.

Individuals are invited to submit written comments electronically to Jenny Scott at jenny.scott@fda.hhs.gov. For more information about the public meeting, contact Jasmine Matthews at (202) 690-1124 or jasmine.matthews@fsis.usda.gov.

NACMPI Transcripts Available

The National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) held a public meeting on Sept. 29 and 30 to review and discuss issues related to data collection, analysis, response and transparency, and strengthening policy and collaboration in pre-harvest food safety.

Transcripts of the meeting are posted on the FSIS website at www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/NACMPI_Transcripts/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.

PHIS Updates: Refinements

Based on user and performance testing feedback, the PHIS development team is refining some of the areas that weren't working as well as they could. Therefore, it is anticipated the system will be completed by Spring 2011.

FSIS is doing everything it can to make PHIS the best possible tool for protecting public health.

For more information on PHIS, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/PHIS.

FSIS Policy Updates

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

Directive 8080.1, Recall of Meat and Poultry Products

Directive 9030.1, Targeting for High-Risk Imported Product Shipments

All notices and directives are available at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/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. Visit askfsis.custhelp.com/ to find the answers to your questions. Recently posted topics include:

When an Establishment Submits FSIS Form 10,240-1 Electronically, Will FSIS Confirm Receipt?

askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=1430

HACCP "Step" of a Flow Chart

askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=1431

Documenting Food Safety Noncompliance

askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=1432

Turkey Tendons

askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faaid=1433



New Podcasts

Tune in to podcasts on selecting, handling and preparing meat and poultry products to reduce the risk of foodborne illness. FSIS released these podcasts helpful to consumers.

Food Safety at Home: Refrigeration and Food Safety (English and Spanish)

Check out these podcast at www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/Podcasts/index.asp. Spanish language consumer podcasts are available at www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/Podcasts_SP/index.asp. Video-casts in American Sign Language are available at www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/SignFSIS/index.asp.

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