

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

---

---

# FSIS DIRECTIVE

5610.1

8/8/05

---

---

## PROCEDURES TO IMPLEMENT THE CONSUMER COMPLAINT MONITORING SYSTEM (CCMS)

### I. PURPOSE

This directive describes the purpose and activities of the Consumer Complaint Monitoring System (CCMS).

### II. [RESERVED]

### III. [RESERVED]

### IV. REFERENCES

[FSIS Directive 6500.1](#), Emergency Incident Response

[FSIS Notice 31-05](#), Instructions for Completing a Non-Routine Incident Report

### V. TERMINOLOGY

A. Consumer Complaint: For purposes of the CCMS, a consumer complaint is any complaint reported to the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) that is initiated by a consumer, or by someone on behalf of a consumer, that is directly related to a meat, poultry, or processed egg product. This includes consumer complaints reported to FSIS by a State or local health department or another Federal agency, such as the Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), or the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It also includes complaints that involve imported products that have been reinspected by FSIS at the port of entry. Most of the consumer complaints reported to FSIS involve:

---

**DISTRIBUTION:** Inspection Offices; T/A Inspectors;  
Plant Mgt; T/A Plant Mgt; TRA; ABB; TSC; Import  
Offices; OPEER, CID Offices

**OPI:** OPPED

1. Illnesses that occurred after eating a meat, poultry, or egg product;
  2. Injuries that occurred while eating a meat, poultry, or egg product;
  3. Foreign objects that were found in a meat, poultry, or egg product;
  4. Allergic reactions that occurred after eating a meat, poultry or egg product;
  5. Suspected under-processing of a ready-to-eat meat, poultry, or egg product;
  6. Allegations of improper labeling of a meat, poultry, or egg product;
- or
7. Dissatisfaction with the quality of a meat, poultry, or egg product.

B. Triage: The classifying of consumer complaints to determine the need for further investigation by FSIS.

C. Complainant District: The FSIS District/Regional Import Field Office for the area where a consumer reporting a complaint about a meat, poultry, or egg product resides.

D. Establishment District: The FSIS District for the area where the establishment that produced a meat, poultry, or egg product that is the subject of a consumer complaint reported is located.

E. Index Sample: The remaining portion of the product that is the subject of a consumer complaint.

F. Companion Sample: An intact product with the same or identical name, brand, lot number, production date and product codes as the index sample.

## **VI. BACKGROUND**

### **A. What is the CCMS?**

The CCMS is an electronic database used by FSIS to record, triage, analyze, and track all consumer complaints reported to the Agency. Additionally, CCMS serves as an integral part of the FSIS bio-defense strategy. Except as identified in VI. B. of this directive, all consumer complaints reported to FSIS are to be entered into the CCMS regardless of which program area initially receives the complaint. The FSIS, Office of Public Health Science (OPHS), Human Health Sciences Division (HHSD), is responsible for the overall management of the CCMS program. The FSIS, Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response

(OFDER), is responsible for developing artificial intelligence models that support identifying non-routine incident patterns imbedded in CCMS data, as well as integrating CCMS with the FSIS Non-Routine Incident Reporting System and the Department of Homeland Security's National Biosurveillance Integration System (NBIS).

**B. Are there any complaints that should not be entered into the CCMS?**

Yes, complaints that are not initiated by consumers or by someone on behalf of a consumer, and complaints that do not involve FSIS regulated products should not be entered into the CCMS. Such complaints should be removed from the CCMS if erroneously entered. Examples of complaints that should not be entered into the CCMS include:

1. Complaints regarding misconduct, waste, fraud, or abuse reported by a whistleblower. These complaints should be reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Office of the Inspector General (OIG);

2. Complaints involving possible criminal violations of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), or the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA). These complaints should be reported to the appropriate Office of Program Evaluation, Enforcement and Review (OPEER), Compliance and Investigations Division (CID), Regional Manager;

3. Complaints reported by an industry competitor. These complaints should be reported to the appropriate FSIS District Manager (DM), except when a criminal violation is alleged. Then the complaint should be reported to the appropriate OPEER, CID Regional Manager;

4. Complaints regarding food supplied through the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), nutrition assistance programs (e.g., National School Lunch Program), unless they involve an FSIS-inspected product. These complaints should be reported to the FNS;

5. Complaints concerning retail-prepared products. These complaints should be directed to the appropriate local agency or state agency. However, if the complaint involves outbreaks associated with meat, poultry, or egg products prepared at the retail level, CCMS staff will notify the Foodborne Disease Investigations Branch, HHSD, OPHS, for branch review and determination if further action is needed. Complaints concerning retail-prepared product that may involve violations of the FMIA, PPIA, or the EPIA should be reported to CID as provided in VII. C. 1. of this directive; and

6. Complaints that indicate possible product tampering. These complaints are to be reported to the OPEER, CID Regional Office to determine the need for a criminal investigation and coordination with OIG. These complaints are also to be reported to OFDER so that it is aware of the situation. If criminal conduct is ruled out, OPEER/CID will notify the CCMS staff and the complaint will be entered into the CCMS.

**Note:** There are times when a consumer complaint that involves product tampering may not be identified as such until triaged and investigated through CCMS.

## **VII. PROCEDURES**

### **A. Roles**

#### **1. What role does OPHS/HHSD play in the management of the CCMS?**

The CCMS staff of the OPHS/HHSD is responsible for the overall management of the CCMS. After a complaint has been entered into the CCMS and submitted to OPHS/HHSD electronically, the CCMS staff triages the complaint to determine whether FSIS should take any additional action in response to the complaint. The CCMS staff is responsible for periodically updating standard operating procedures (SOPs) that comply with VII.D.2.a of this directive to determine whether it should refer a complaint to an Office of Field Operations (OFO) District Office (DO) or Regional Import Field Office for an investigation, or to OFDER if it appears to be a non-routine incident. These SOPs are posted on the CCMS web site and can be viewed by clicking on the "SOPs" button. If a complaint is investigated, District personnel will manage all aspects of the investigation with the CCMS staff providing technical guidance and scientific direction when needed. The CCMS staff is also responsible for the referral of all complaints that may involve criminal activity or violations of the FMIA, PPIA, or EPIA to the appropriate OPEER, CID Regional Manager.

#### **2. What other FSIS program areas are involved with CCMS, and what are their roles?**

a. The following program areas have access to the CCMS and are responsible for entering any consumer complaints that they receive into the CCMS. Each program area should have designees who will be responsible for receiving and entering consumer complaints into the system.

i. OFDER is responsible in the context of threat detection, for providing additional analysts to assist with analyzing CCMS cases when the country's threat level is raised to red, with specific threats to the agriculture sector. Furthermore, OFDER is responsible, in the context of threat detection,

for the technical enhancements to CCMS that will provide analyzed data to the NBIS.

ii. OFO: all District Offices (DOs), all Enforcement Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs), and those Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) that have received EIAO training;

iii. The Office of Public Affairs, Education and Outreach (OPAEO): Meat and Poultry Hotline (the Hotline);

iv. OPHS: HHSD;

v. OPEER: CID Program Investigators, Supervisors, and Regional Managers;

vi. The Office of Policy, Program and Employee Development (OPPED): Labeling and Consumer Protection Staff (LCPS);

vii. The Office of International Affairs (OIA); all Regional Import Field Offices, and all Import Surveillance Liaison Officers (ISLOs); and

viii. Limited access to CCMS information will be given to OPPED, Technical Service Center (TSC); OPAEO, Congressional and Public Affairs Office (CPAO); and OPEER, Evaluation and Enforcement Division (EED); FNS, Food Safety Unit; and AMS, Poultry Programs and Livestock and Seed Programs.

b. Program areas that occasionally receive consumer complaints but do not have direct access to the CCMS, such as the OPAEO/Executive Correspondence and Issues Management Staff, and OPEER /Internal Control Staff, should forward any consumer complaints that they receive to OPHS/HHSD for entry into the system.

c. In addition to entering complaints into the CCMS, OFO has a role in investigating complaints when triage by the CCMS staff indicates that an investigation is warranted. Occasionally, OIA ISLOs assist in the investigation of complaints concerning imported product.

### **3. What other USDA program areas are involved with CCMS, and what are their roles?**

a. The following USDA program areas have limited access (review only), to CCMS and are responsible for reviewing consumer complaints as they are entered into the system for the purpose of status updates:

- i. FNS, Food Safety Unit
- ii. AMS, Poultry Programs and Livestock and Seed Programs

b. The FNS Food Safety Unit electronically transmits National School Lunch Program complaint information involving FSIS regulated product to CCMS for program staff to review the complaint and investigate as indicated. Additionally, if CCMS receives a complaint which may involve a school lunch program product, CCMS staff will notify FNS Food Safety Unit staff.

## **B. Responding to a Consumer Complaint**

### **1. What is the initial step in responding to a consumer complaint?**

The first step in responding to a consumer complaint reported to FSIS is to determine whether the complaint meets the definition of a “consumer complaint” as provided in section V. A. of this directive. The person that initially receives the complaint makes this determination. If the complaint meets the definition of a “consumer complaint,” the information provided should be entered into the CCMS. If the complaint does not meet the definition of a “consumer complaint,” the information provided by the consumer should not be entered into the CCMS. If another government agency (e.g., a local or State health department or another Federal agency) is responsible for responding to the complaint, the person taking the complaint should refer the consumer to that agency. Also, complaints that involve possible criminal activity or violations of the FMIA, PPIA, or EPIA should be referred to the appropriate OPEER, CID Regional Manager and to OFDER.

### **2. What are the steps to be taken if the complaint meets the definition of a “consumer complaint”?**

a. If the complaint meets the definition of a “consumer complaint,” the person taking the complaint should enter information about the consumer, the product, and the nature of the complaint into the appropriate CCMS data entry fields. In addition, the person who is entering the complaint into the CCMS should input his or her name, assignment location, and telephone number in the appropriate CCMS data entry fields.

b. When talking with the consumer, the person who receives the complaint should ask the consumer to keep the remaining product and the product packaging in the freezer until he or she receives a letter from FSIS concerning the disposition of the complaint, or is contacted by an FSIS program employee assigned to investigate the complaint. FSIS will respond to every consumer who registers a complaint with the Agency that is entered into the CCMS.

c. Once the complaint information is documented in the CCMS, the person who received the complaint should submit the complaint to the CCMS staff for triage. This is accomplished by clicking on the “submit” button on the CCMS screen.

**3. What if the consumer reporting the complaint to FSIS does not have all the information about the product needed to complete the CCMS consumer complaint form?**

All consumer complaints reported to FSIS are to be entered into the CCMS, even if the consumer is only able to provide limited information about the product. Thus, the person receiving the consumer complaint should enter all information received about the complaint that the consumer is able or willing to provide.

**4. What if the consumer reporting the complaint to FSIS does not have the original packaging of the product that is the subject of the complaint?**

If the consumer has product information but not the original packaging, the complaint should still be entered into the CCMS. Although FSIS may not be able to investigate the complaint, the information may be important in the event FSIS receives similar complaints about the same product.

**5. Which date should appear in the CCMS date field--the date that the complaint was entered into the CCMS, or the date that the complaint was reported to FSIS?**

The date that a complaint was reported to FSIS should appear in the CCMS date field. When a complaint is reported on a date that differs from the date that the complaint is entered into the CCMS, the person entering the case must manually input the date that the case was reported. However, when a complaint is reported, it should be entered into the CCMS as soon as possible.

**6. When entering information about a consumer complaint, how is the distinction between a primary complaint and a secondary complaint made?**

For complaints that have more than one component, the CCMS database has fields for both a primary complaint and a secondary complaint. When a consumer complaint involves more than one component, the primary complaint is the complaint directly associated with the product, and the secondary complaint is the consumer’s response to the primary complaint. For example, if a complaint alleges that a consumer found a foreign object in the product and then became ill, the primary complaint is finding the foreign object and the secondary

complaint is the illness. If a complaint alleges that a consumer was injured when he or she bit into a foreign object, the primary complaint is the foreign object and the secondary complaint is the injury.

### **C. Special Circumstances in Responding to a Consumer Complaint**

#### **1. Possible criminal conduct**

If at any point in responding to a consumer complaint, it appears that the complaint may involve product tampering or other criminal violation of the FMIA, PPIA, or EPIA, the program area that determines that the complaint may involve criminal conduct should notify the appropriate OPEER CID Regional Manager. OPEER will request the CCMS staff to remove specific information from the CCMS if OPEER determines that, if it is reported, it could jeopardize an investigation. The CCMS staff will ensure that the specified information is removed from the CCMS database. OPEER will contact the CCMS staff if it determines criminal conduct is not involved or upon completion of the criminal investigation, and the specified information will be entered into the CCMS.

#### **2. Non-routine incidents identified as the result of a consumer complaint**

If at any point in responding to a consumer complaint, it becomes apparent that the complaint involves an incident that is not of a routine nature, OFDER should be notified and the FSIS Emergency Management Committee (EMC) may be activated, if appropriate. A non-routine incident may be identified by the CCMS staff, or other Agency personnel as information is gathered in response to what originally appeared to be a routine consumer complaint. The program area that determines that the incident is of a non-routine nature should follow the procedures in FSIS Directive 6500.1, Emergency Incident Response, and FSIS Notice 31-05, Instructions for Completing a Non-Routine Incident Report.

#### **3. Bi-directional flow of information on FNS Electronic Commodity Ordering System (ECOS) complaints**

FSIS will communicate to FNS the status of complaints received via ECOS that involve the USDA nutrition assistance programs (e.g., National School Lunch Program).

### **D. Possible Outcomes of a Triage**

As stated above, the CCMS staff will triage all complaints that are entered into the CCMS. Following is a description of the possible outcomes of a triage.

**1. Close the case:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint does not warrant an investigation, the CCMS staff will close the case without any further action by FSIS. The CCMS staff is the



only program area with access to the CCMS that is permitted to close a case. When a case is closed without further action by FSIS, the CCMS staff will:

a. Document the reason that additional action on the complaint was not needed in the case notes field of the CCMS;

b. Send a letter to the consumer that informs the consumer of the final disposition of the complaint. A copy of this letter is posted to the case file in CCMS; and,

c. Send a letter to the establishment where the product was produced that contains a summary of the complaint without identifying the consumer's name. The letter will inform the establishment that FSIS has evaluated the complaint and has decided to take no further action on it. The establishment may determine whether it should unilaterally act to address the problem alleged in the complaint. An electronic copy of this letter is posted in the CCMS case file.

**2. Request an investigation:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint should be investigated, it will contact the appropriate OFO/DO and request an investigation. As stated above, the CCMS staff is responsible for developing SOPs for determining whether to refer a complaint to an OFO/DO for an investigation and should refer to these SOPs when triaging a complaint.

a. The SOPs for triaging a complaint should specify that the CCMS staff will request that an OFO/DO investigate a complaint if FSIS receives a single complaint that involves any of the following:

i. a laboratory confirmed foodborne illness;

ii. an allergic reaction to a previously diagnosed food allergy to an unlabeled ingredient;

iii. signs that a ready-to-eat product may be under-processed; or

iv. unusual signs or symptoms that may represent the deliberate introduction of a chemical, biological, or radiological threat agent into the food supply.

b. The SOPs for triaging a complaint should also specify that as part of the triage process, the CCMS staff will search the CCMS database for similar complaints. The SOPs should specify that the CCMS staff will request that an OFO/DO investigate a complaint if the CCMS database contains more than one similar complaint.

**3. Inform the appropriate DO of similar complaints about non-identical products:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff finds that there is more than one similar complaint about non-identical products produced at a particular establishment, but the complaints do not meet the SOP criteria for an investigation, it will inform the DM of the DO for the establishment that is the subject of the complaints so that the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) can follow-up with the establishment.

**4. Refer the complaint to OPPED/LCPS:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint is about the product's labeling but does not raise health or safety concerns, it will refer the complaint to OPPED/LCPS. LCPS is responsible for further management and documentation of these complaints in the CCMS.

**5. Refer the complaint to OIA:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint involves a product produced in a foreign establishment, it will immediately inform the Director of OIA Import-Export Program Staff (IEPS). The CCMS staff will document this action in the case notes section of the CCMS. If the CCMS staff determines that the complaint should be investigated as provided by VII.D.2. of this directive, it will request an investigation and inform OIA of the findings of the investigation.

**6. Refer the complaint to OFDER:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint involves a potential non-routine incident, the CCMS staff will forward the incident information through the Medical Affairs and Surveillance Branch to the Director of HHSD. The HHSD Director then validates the incident and submits the Non-Routine Incident Report to the OPHS AA and the OFDER duty officer for possible EMC activation.

**7. Notify OPEER/CID headquarters of possible criminal conduct:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint appears to involve product tampering, food security threats, economic adulteration, misbranding, or other potential criminal conduct, it will inform OPEER/CID headquarters as provided in VII. C. 1. of this directive. The CCMS staff will also notify OFDER if the complaint appears to involve a food security threat.

**Note:** The CCMS staff will request OFO to determine whether the complaint appears to involve product tampering, food security threats, economic adulteration, misbranding, or other potential criminal conduct.

**8. Notify FNS/Food Safety Unit of complaints involving products distributed through the National School Lunch Program:** If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that the complaint appears to involve a food safety risk to recipients of products through the National School Lunch Program, it will inform FNS/Food Safety Unit and/or AMS/Poultry and Livestock Program headquarters and request their assistance in investigating the complaint.

**9. Reopen a case:** If necessary, after a case is closed, the CCMS staff may reopen it and enter additional information. If an OFO program employee determines that a case should be reopened, he or she should contact the DM or designee for his or her District and explain the reason he or she believes that the case should be reopened. If the DM or designee agrees, he or she will contact the CCMS staff and request that they reopen the case. OPEER/CID Regional Managers or OIA Director of Import Inspection Division may also request that the CCMS staff reopen a case.

## **E. OFO Action**

### **1. What are the responsibilities of the complainant District?**

a. If the CCMS staff determines that a complaint should be investigated, it will inform the DO where the complainant resides (the complainant District) and request an investigation. The CCMS staff will inform the DO by entering the request for an investigation in the case notes section of the CCMS. The DO is responsible for checking the CCMS daily for these requests. If the CCMS staff determines that a complaint requires immediate attention by the DO, it will inform the DO by phone or e-mail, as well as through the case notes section of the CCMS, of the request for an investigation. When the DO receives a request from the CCMS staff, the DO should assign a program employee to investigate the complaint.

b. When investigating a consumer complaint, the program employee assigned to the complaint should meet with the consumer to collect the relevant information and evidence needed to identify and document the alleged problem with the product as reported by the consumer.

c. The program employee should visually inspect the product that is the subject of the complaint to verify that the correct product information was entered into the CCMS.

d. The program employee should also take pictures, collect physical evidence, and obtain any other information that he or she determines is needed to identify and document the alleged problem.

e. If requested to do so by the CCMS staff, the program employee assigned to investigate the complaint should also collect an index sample from the consumer and similarly coded companion samples from the product's point of purchase, and submit these samples to an FSIS laboratory for analysis. The procedures for submitting samples to an FSIS laboratory are described in part VII E.2. of this directive. If requested to do so by the CCMS staff, the program employee assigned to investigate the complaint should also collect the index

sample from the consumer and forward it to the establishment district for examination.

f. Once the program employee for the complainant District has completed the actions needed to identify and document the alleged problem with the product, he or she should document the findings in the case notes section of the CCMS. He or she should also post electronic photographs and documents collected as part of the investigation to the case “file cabinet” in the CCMS. If during the investigation the program employee finds that the information about the product that was originally entered into the CCMS is inaccurate, he or she should enter the correct information.

g. The program employee should forward any information that he or she obtains regarding the complaint to the DM (or a person identified in the DO’s SOPs for managing consumer complaints).

h. The DM (or designee) of the complainant District will forward the CCMS electronic copy of the findings of the complainant District’s investigation to the DM of the District where the establishment that produced the product is located (the establishment District) and should document this action in the CCMS. For imported product, the complainant District will forward the CCMS electronic copy of the findings to the Director OIA, IID, IEPS.

i. If, at any time during the investigation of a consumer complaint, it is determined that criminal activity or possible violations of the Acts have occurred, OFO is to notify the appropriate OPEER, CID Regional Manager.

## **2. Procedures for submitting product samples in response to a consumer complaint**

a. If, after triaging a complaint, the CCMS staff determines that product samples may need to be analyzed by an FSIS laboratory, it will consult with the appropriate staffs at OPHS headquarters (e.g., Microbiology Division and Residue Branch of the Zoonotic Diseases and Residue Surveillance Division), as well as the staffs at the FSIS laboratories in the field, to determine the type of analysis that should be conducted and the FSIS laboratory that should conduct the analysis. Once this determination has been made, the CCMS staff will arrange for samples to be collected and submitted to the appropriate FSIS laboratory.

b. The CCMS staff will enter information on the type of samples requested (i.e., index or companion), the laboratory analysis requested, the FSIS laboratory to which the product samples should be submitted, and instructions for collecting and shipping the product samples into the CCMS database fields dedicated to product sampling information.

c. Designated program employees in the field have access to the CCMS screen that displays product sampling information. The CCMS staff will also provide the product sampling information to the DM or designee of the complainant District when requesting that a program employee investigate the complaint.

d. After collecting the requested product samples, the program employee that is investigating the complaint should complete a laboratory sample request form, FSIS Form 10,000-2, and submit the product samples, along with the sample request form, to the appropriate FSIS laboratory. The following blocks must be filled out on FSIS Form 10,000-2:

- i. Block 2 – enter 42
- ii. Block 7 – enter the establishment number of the collected product (if the establishment number is not known leave blank and in Block 16 enter the abbreviation of the State where the sample was collected)
- iii. Block 10 – enter CCMS
- iv. Block 11 – enter the case number
- v. Blocks 13 and 14 – enter the date sample was taken and the date mailed to the laboratory
- vi. Block 15 – check off the laboratory to which the sample is being shipped
- vii. Block 24 – enter the product information; any relevant information related to the sample; the requested analyses and the CCMS contact name and phone number, as well as a fax number for faxing sample results
- viii. Block 25 – Collector's name (printed and signed)
- ix. Block 27 – Collector's phone number

**Note:** Any blocks not listed above may be left blank.

e. The program employee submitting the sample should post a copy of the laboratory request form in the CCMS or document in the appropriate CCMS data entry fields which laboratory the samples were sent to, the date that the samples were sent, and the sample request form number.

f. Once the laboratory analysis is complete, the FSIS laboratory that analyzed the product sample will contact the CCMS staff by phone or e-mail with the results, and the CCMS staff will enter the results into the CCMS database. The laboratory should also fax a hard copy of the results to the CCMS staff and the complainant DO.

**Note:** The CCMS staff is working to update the CCMS so that the procedure of faxing the laboratory results report will eventually be phased out and that information will be electronically entered into CCMS.

### **3. What are the responsibilities of the establishment District?**

a. Once the establishment DO receives the results of a consumer complaint investigation conducted by the complainant District, the establishment DM or designee should inform the IIC and plant management at the establishment where the product was produced of the complaint and the findings of the FSIS investigation conducted by the complainant District.

b. The IIC should verify the actions that the establishment takes in response to the complaint, document his or her findings, and submit the report to the DO to be entered into the CCMS database. In some instances, no action by the establishment may be an appropriate response.

c. If the complaint involves a food safety hazard, the DM or designee may assign an EIAO to conduct an assessment of the food safety systems in operation at the establishment where the product was produced.

### **F. Follow-up to investigation**

1. After the establishment DM receives the IIC's report regarding the actions that the establishment took in response to the findings of a complaint investigation, the establishment DM or designee should review the case to determine whether FSIS should take any additional action.

2. If the establishment DO determines that the actions taken by the establishment were appropriate, and that there is no need for further action by FSIS, it should inform the CCMS staff either electronically or by phone. After the DO informs the CCMS staff that no further action is needed, the CCMS staff will close the case. The CCMS staff will document the reason for closing the case in the case notes field of the CCMS. Once a case is closed, it will be archived and will no longer be listed with the active cases in the CCMS database.

3. If the establishment DO determines that the establishment shipped adulterated or misbranded product, it will notify the OFO Recall Management Staff (RMS) and the appropriate OPEER, CID Regional Manager. The RMS will coordinate a product recall, if necessary.

The CCMS staff is responsible for ensuring that all actions taken by the FSIS program areas involved in responding to the findings of a CCMS investigation are documented in the CCMS case file. When all actions have been completed and documented, the CCMS staff will close the case.



Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy, Program and Employee Development