

FSIS Constituent Update

Special Edition

FSIS to Extend Implementation Date on Routine Sampling Program for Non-O157:H7

Date extended from March 5 to June 4, 2012

Today, FSIS is announcing that it is extending for 90 days the implementation date for routine sampling of six additional STEC serogroups (O26, O45, O103, O111, O121 and O145); the implementation date will begin June 4.

The purpose of the extension is to provide additional time for establishments to validate their test methods and detect these pathogens prior to entering the stream of commerce.

FSIS will initially sample raw beef manufacturing trimmings produced domestically and imported, and test the samples for the serogroups.

On September 13, 2011, USDA announced that if the serogroups are found in raw ground beef or its precursors, those products will be prohibited from entering commerce. This policy represents a major advancement for public health.

An advance copy of an updated *Federal Register* notice will be posted on the FSIS website as soon as it becomes available.

Note: The original *Constituent Update Special Edition*, February 8, 2012, inadvertently stated that FSIS would also initially sample other raw ground beef product components, in addition to raw beef manufacturing trimmings. This copy has been corrected to reflect the accurate language.

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