



Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

Joint Public Meeting to Measure Progress on Food Safety

FSIS, in collaboration with FDA and CDC, will host a third joint public meeting on “Measuring Progress on Food Safety: Current Status and Future Directions,” on Oct. 20, in Portland, Ore.

Information will be gathered from various stakeholders, including the food industry, state regulators and consumer groups, on measurements they recommend or are using to assess performance in food safety.

Visit www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/meetings_&_events/index.asp to review agenda items.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Volume 12, Issue 39
October 8, 2010

Comment on Codex Activities

The Office of Food Safety is inviting comments on standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex). Codex activities announced in the June 4, 2010, *Federal Register* notice include: phytosanitary standard-setting activities, commodity standards, guidelines, codes of practice and revised texts.

For more information, go to www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPDE/rdad/FRPubs/2009-0033.htm. Documents pertaining to Codex standard-setting activities are accessible at www.codexalimentarius.net/current.asp.

Comments must be submitted by May 31, 2011, through the Federal *eRulemaking* Portal at www.regulations.gov or to the Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS, Mailstop 5272, George Washington Carver Center, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Beltsville, MD 20705.

All items submitted by mail or e-mail must include the agency’s name and docket number FSIS-2009-0033. Comments received in response to the docket will be made available for public review.

Inside this Issue

New Policy Updates	2
FSIS <i>E.coli</i> Testing	2
New Podcasts	2
NACMCF Resources Available	3



Export Requirement Updates



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

China

Korea

Taiwan

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

Acting Assistant Administrator
Robert Tynan

Executive Staff
Carol Blake, CPA Director
Greg DiNapoli, Deputy Director

Editor
Ndidi A. Mojay

Assistant Editor
Alexandra Tarrant

Editor-at-Large
Joan Lindengerger

FSIS Policy Updates

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

- Notice 58-10, *Collecting Supplier Information at the Time of Sample Collection for E.coli O157:H7 in Raw Ground Beef*
- Notice 59-10, *Compositing of Environmental Samples Collected During Routine Risk Based Listeria monocytogenes*
- Directive 7120.1- Revision 4, *Safe and Suitable Ingredients Used in the Production of Meat and Poultry Products*

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

Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli*

FSIS has resumed the reporting of weekly updates on raw beef *E. coli* verification sampling program testing results.

The temporary suspension of results was due to internal computer upgrades that resulted in some incompatibility in the conversion of data fields.

Go to www.fsis.usda.gov/science/Ecoli_Positive_Results/index.asp for previous and current year results.

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: Learning about Safe After School Snacks (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.

To continue automatically receiving podcasts, renew your subscription. For assistance, e-mail podcast@fsis.usda.gov.

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 not be completed until Spring 2011.

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

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

NACMCF Resources Made Available

FSIS has posted two reports published by the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) to its website.

The following reports were published in the Journal of Food Protection earlier this year:

- *Determination of the Most Appropriate Technologies for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to Adopt in Performing Routine and Baseline Microbiological Analyses*
- *Assessment of Food as a Source of Exposure to Mycobacterium avium subspecies paratuberculosis (MAP)*

Go to www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/National_Advisory_Committee_on_Microbiological/index.asp to review these reports in detail.