

National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection

Update on State Reviews

Purpose:

Last year, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) began comprehensive reviews of State meat and poultry inspection (MPI) programs using a new review manual – the FSIS Manual for State Meat and Poultry Inspection Program Reviews. The new manual provides instruction for conducting reviews of State programs to determine whether State requirements are “at least equal to” federal requirements for assuring that meat and poultry products are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled, and packaged. The implementation of the new manual is part of the Agency’s effort to update and strengthen policy and procedures for reviewing State MPI programs. The new review procedures detailed in the manual consists of FSIS review teams making initial determinations based on States’ self-assessment submissions, followed by on-site reviews that compare the self-assessment to the implementation resulting in final determinations.

The purpose of this update is to summarize review results of 28 self-assessment submissions and 4 onsite reviews using the new Federal review manual and procedures (see Attachment 1). Detailed review findings covering each of the ten review components, except Product Sampling, are presented in two additional reports: Part I. Self-Assessment Report and Part II. On-Site Report.

Main Points:

The first part of the methodology – initial determinations based on States’ self-assessments – has been completed for all 28 State programs. The second part of the methodology – final determinations based on FSIS on-site reviews – has been completed on 4 of the 28 State programs. Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, and Wisconsin had been randomly selected for the first on-site reviews. It is important to note that the 28 initial determinations and the 4 final determinations were made using data from only 9 of the 10 assessment components in the manual.

All 28 State programs received an initial determination of “at least equal to” based on 9 of the 10 components. In addition, all 4 of the States that were reviewed on-site received final determinations of “at least equal to” status based on 9 of the 10 components. The comprehensive review process will not be completed until the remaining State programs receive on-site reviews and all States have been evaluated for component 3. After the Agency completes revisions of the review manual, FSIS will conduct on-site reviews in eight States each year until all State programs have been reviewed.

The NACMPI addressed the issue of State reviews on June 23, 2003. The committee defined “at least equal to” and provided advice on the criteria FSIS should use to evaluate each of the ten review components (see Attachment 2). FSIS incorporated the committee’s definition of “at least equal to” in the new review manual and procedures. FSIS also incorporated the committee’s suggestion that evaluation criteria focus on program outcomes. The only recommendation that FSIS

has not implemented was the committee's recommendation to re-evaluate funding for State programs. Currently, State cooperative programs receive up to 50% re-imbusement for operating cost.

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Attachments

(1) FSIS Review of State Programs: Summary Report

(2) NACMPI Sub-Committee Number 3 Report, June 23, 2003: State Review Methods