

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING FSIS FORM 5500-3,
MICROBIOLOGICAL TESTING IN ESTABLISHMENTS PRODUCING READY-TO-EAT PRODUCT**

This form is designed to facilitate uniform collection of microbial data for the purpose of correlation. Use of the form will be initiated by OPHS, which will provide the information on the establishment number and the first three columns of the form.

FSIS RTE PRODUCTS TESTED:

OPHS will list the number of FSIS samples for ready-to-eat products tested within the past six months using all the dates for which it has results. The results will be listed as a positive (+) or negative (-). If there are no results the correlation can not be completed. If less than 10 samples have been collected, bring 10 FSIS sample forms and instructions for the SVMO/VMO when performing the IDV. The SVMO/VMO should collect and submit these samples over the next 4 months. Once the columns are completed for FSIS testing, the remaining information will be collected from information obtained from the establishment records while performing the IDV.

SAMPLE COPY

EST. RTE PRODUCTS TESTED:

In column four list the number of samples tested by the plant by product, by month for ready-to-eat products. Indicate the month in column five and the number of violations in column six.

Lm ENVIRONMENTAL TESTING:

In column seven list the location of Lm environmental testing, the number of tests conducted per week in column eight, and the outcome of tests for the past month in column nine. This should be recorded as the number of positive (+) and negative (-).

PRODUCT TESTING:

Next list any additional microbiological product testing the plant has conducted for the last month, by week. Indicate the organism of concern at the top of the form in the "Process Category" field and list the number of positive (+) outcomes in column eleven.