

6355.1 USE OF CHLORINE 09/23/96

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OPI: S&T/TTC

USE OF CHLORINE DIOXIDE IN POULTRY CHILL WATER

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I. PURPOSE

A. This directive provides information to inspection personnel regarding the use of chlorine dioxide to control microbial populations in poultry chill water. On March 3, 1995, the Food and Drug Administration amended 21 CFR Part 173 to provide for the safe use of chlorine dioxide as an antimicrobial agent in water used in poultry processing.

B. This directive also provides information regarding verification activities, safety requirements, and enforcement actions. Agency inspection personnel will verify that the use of chlorine dioxide does not interfere with inspection, result in adulterated product, and complies with this directive and MPI Regulations.

II. RESERVED

III. RESERVED

IV. RESERVED

V. ACCEPTABLE TECHNIQUE FOR REDUCING MICROBIAL LEVELS IN POULTRY CHILL WATER

A. Chlorine dioxide may be used only to control the microbial population in poultry chill water.

B. The generator effluent should contain at least 90 percent (by weight) of chlorine dioxide with respect to all chlorine species as determined by Method 4500-ClO₂E in the "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," 18th ed., 1992, or an equivalent method.

C. The additive may be used to control the microbial population in poultry processing chill water in an amount not to exceed 3 parts per million (ppm) residual chlorine dioxide as determined by Method 4500-ClO₂E in the "Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater," 18th ed., 1992, or an equivalent method.

VI. VERIFICATION

Inspection personnel will verify the establishment's process control measures and/or slaughter process control records for adherence to 3 ppm residual chlorine dioxide as a part of normal verification. Verification methodology includes daily review of establishment records, and monthly observation of process control measures (sampling and testing poultry chill water).

VII. SAFETY

A. Inspection personnel should also review FSIS Directive 4791.5 to ensure that adequate information concerning the identity, hazards, and safe handling of chemicals used in the workplace is received and on file.

B. Inspection personnel should also review FSIS Directive 4791.1 and FSIS Directive 4791.6, which deal with the use of protective clothing and equipment, and handling emergencies in the workplace, respectively.

VIII. ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Inspection personnel will take the following enforcement actions when a non-conformance occurs.

A. Reject an establishment's use of chlorine dioxide and retain any affected product if unwholesome or adulterated product is produced as a result of a failure of the system.

Inspection personnel will take the following enforcement action for repeated establishment failures documented through verification activities.

A. Upon determining that the records reflect a pattern of repeated establishment failures for the same cause, FSIS inspection personnel should initiate Progressive Enforcement Action as appropriate.

Mark Mina
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