

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS PHIS DIRECTIVE

9900.3

5/23/12

PRE-STAMPING IMPORTED PRODUCT

DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS DIRECTIVE UNTIL MAY 29, 2012.

I. PURPOSE

This directive provides instructions to import inspection personnel on how they are to verify that the requirements and associated procedures for the pre-stamping of imported meat and poultry products are met. This directive also includes instructions related to the Public Health Information System (PHIS).

II. CANCELATION

FSIS Directive 9500.4 Pre-stamping of Imported Product 6/24/09

III. [RESERVED]

IV. REFERENCES

9 CFR 327.10, 327.26, 381.204, 320.3 and 500.5

FSIS Directive 5400.5 PHIS User Guide

FSIS Directive 5300.1 Managing the Establishment Profile in the Public Health Information System (PHIS)

FSIS Directive 5000.1 Verifying an Establishments Food Safety System

FSIS PHIS Directive 9900.8 Meat, Poultry, Egg Products and Shell Eggs Refused Entry into the United States (U.S.)

The PHIS User Guide is available via the FSIS Intranet on the PHIS page under Resources

V. BACKGROUND

The Federal Meat and Poultry Products Inspection regulations permit official import inspection establishments to place the official inspection legend on imported meat and poultry products before the completion of official import reinspection. However, the regulations require that official import inspection establishments have a controlled pre-stamping procedure approved by the Director, Office of International Affairs (OIA), Import Inspection Division (IID) (9 CFR 327.10(d) and 381.204(f)). The pre-stamping procedure needs to identify how the controlled stamping of product will be

accomplished. Import inspection personnel are to direct official import inspection establishment management that requests to establish a pre-stamping procedure to submit the procedure in writing to the Regional Import Field Office (RIFO) for review before submitting it to the IID Director for approval.

VI. APPROVING PRE-STAMPING PROCEDURE

A. The RIFO is to review and forward all pre-stamping procedures submitted by import establishments to the IID Director with a recommendation as to whether to approve the procedure. The RIFO is to verify that the pre-stamping procedure:

1. Limits pre-stamping to only those lots that FSIS import inspection personnel can fully inspect on the day on which pre-stamping occurs;
2. Provides that all product that is pre-stamped will be stored in the official import inspection establishment until reinspection has occurred;
3. Includes a control procedure for removing or obliterating the official inspection legend from pre-stamped lots that fail reinspection;
4. Describes how the official import inspection establishment will maintain a daily pre-stamping log that includes:
 - a. Date the product was pre-stamped/reinspected;
 - b. Country of origin;
 - c. Foreign establishment number;
 - d. Name of product;
 - e. Number of units;
 - f. Shipping mark;
 - g. Health Certificate Number;
 - h. A procedure for retaining the daily pre-stamping log in accordance with 9 CFR 320.3 and making it available to import inspection personnel on a daily basis.

B. The RIFO is to forward all submitted and reviewed pre-stamping procedures, with a recommendation as to whether to approve the procedure, to the IID Director. The IID Director is to review each procedure along with the RIFO recommendation and prepare a letter that responds to the official import inspection establishment's request for a pre-stamping procedure.

C. If the IID Director decides to approve the procedure, he or she is to sign the letter and file a copy along with a copy of the pre-stamping procedure. The original letter and procedure are to be sent back to the requesting official import inspection establishment.

VII. UPDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT PROFILE IN PHIS

Import inspection personnel are to verify that all applicable tasks for official markings applied to imported products are reflected in the Establishment Profile in PHIS. Import inspection personnel are to update the Establishment Profile as per FSIS Directive 5300.1.

VIII. PRE-STAMPING VERIFICATION

Upon approval of the pre-stamping procedure, and while performing verification activities, Import inspection personnel are to:

1. Verify that the establishment is performing pre-stamping and monitoring in accordance with the approved pre-stamping procedure;
2. Verify that the establishment is maintaining a pre-stamping log and information described in section VI (4) of this directive; and
3. Record results of the verifications in the PHIS.

IX. NONCOMPLIANCE

When the establishment fails to follow the approved pre-stamping procedure, and thereby fails to comply with 9 CFR 327.10(d), 327.26, or 381.204(f), Import inspection personnel are to:

1. Control any affected product and require correction of the non-compliance.
2. Document the noncompliance in the PHIS in accordance with FSIS Directive 5000.1, Chapter IV, and issue an FSIS Form 5400-4, Non-Compliance Record (NR).

NOTE: Pre stamping privileges may be cancelled orally or in writing after consultation with the RIFO.

X. DATA ANALYSIS

Annually, the Data Analysis and Integration Group within the Office of Data Integration and Food Protection will review and analyze the PHIS data on pre-stamping program non-compliances (as identified using noncompliance reports with citations of 9 CFR 327.10(d), 327.26, 381.204(f), and 500.5), starting 90 days after full implementation of Import PHIS. Results from these analyses will be shared with the Office of International

Affairs and the Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) to determine whether the findings suggest potential follow-up action or instruction to import inspection personnel.

Refer questions regarding this directive through supervisory channels or through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com>.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel A. Edelstein". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development