

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

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# FSIS NOTICE

08-09

1/28/09

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## **SAMPLING OF LOW PRODUCTION VOLUME RAW GROUND BEEF ESTABLISHMENTS FOR *SALMONELLA* AND *ESCHERICHIA COLI* O157:H7**

This notice reissues the instructions in FSIS Notice 12-08, Sampling Of Low Production Volume Raw Ground Beef Establishments For *Salmonella* And *Escherichia Coli* O157:H7. The purpose of the notice is to provide direction to inspection program personnel on how to submit samples for *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7 testing for establishments producing low volumes of raw ground beef when the inspector receives FSIS Form 10,210-3 with MT43S as the project code (Block 14).

**NOTE:** This notice cancels FSIS Notice12-08.

The Agency randomly samples and tests for *Salmonella* at each establishment that produces less than 1000 pounds of raw ground beef products in a typical day's production. The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) tests the ground beef samples collected for both *Salmonella* and *E. coli* O157:H7. The Agency will not schedule the establishments sampled under this program in the regular *Salmonella* verification testing program (9 CFR 310.25(b)).

### **Inspection Program Personnel Responsibilities for Sampling**

When inspection program personnel receive FSIS Form 10,210-3 with MT43S as the project code (Block 14), they are to hold the form until they also receive FSIS Form 10,210-3 with MT43 as the project code. The 10,210-3 form with MT43 in block 14 and the 10,210-3 form with MT43S in block 14 are mailed separately and represent 2 different programs. Inspection program personnel receive sample requests forms under the MT43 sampling program more frequently than under the MT43S sampling program. When inspection program personnel have both forms, they are to:

1. collect only one sample following the directions in FSIS Directive 10,010.1, Microbiological Testing Program and Other Verification Activities For *Escherichia coli* O157:H7 in Raw Ground Beef Products and Raw Ground Beef Components and Beef Patty Components. The laboratory will use this one sample to complete tests for both *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella*, including serotyping;

2. complete Form 10,210-3 with the MT43S project code. Inspection program personnel are to send the sample to the laboratory and include in the sample box the two 10,210-3 forms, one with the MT43S project code and the other with the MT43 project code. Inspection program personnel are to answer the additional questions in block 28 of the MT43S form.

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 2/1/2010

**OPI:** OPPD

3. obtain test results through the LEARN (Laboratory Electronic Application for Results Notification) system and report them to the establishment at the next weekly meeting. The sample *Salmonella* results will not have any immediate regulatory consequences. Therefore, the inspector, after receiving *E. coli* O157:H7 results, is to advise an establishment voluntarily holding product that it does not need to continue to hold product that has tested negative for *E. coli* O157:H7. If the inspector receives *Salmonella* results before the *E. coli* O157:H7 results, he/she should wait to notify the establishment until after receiving the *E. coli* O157:H7 results.

### **Analysis of the Data**

The Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response and the Office of Public Health Science will analyze *Salmonella* sample results for raw ground beef in low volume establishments. Specifically, these staffs will review data on the serotyping and subtyping results for all positive samples. These staffs will also analyze the information obtained from block 28 of the sampling form.

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Policy Development Division through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935.



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