

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

FSIS NOTICE

10-10

2/18/10

EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN PRODUCTS FROM THE FSIS READY-TO-EAT (RTE) SAMPLING PROGRAMS

Inspection program personnel (IPP) are not to collect samples of oils, shortening, lard, margarine, oleomargarine, or mixtures of rendered animal fats that are Ready-to-Eat (RTE) until further notice.

FSIS Directive 10,240.4, Verification Procedures for Consumer Safety Inspectors for the *Listeria monocytogenes* Regulation and Introduction of Phase 2 of the *Lm* Risk-Based Verification Testing Program - Revision 2, of February 3, 2009, removed the exceptions for lard, margarine, lard margarine, mixtures of rendered animal fats, popped pork skins, pork rinds, dried soup bases, concentrated (high salt content) soup mixes, and pickled pig's feet from the ALLRTE sampling program.

Oils, shortening, lard, margarine, lard margarine, and mixtures of rendered animal fats are not to be collected for sampling under the ALLRTE or RTE001 sampling programs because there is no validated method for testing these products for *Listeria monocytogenes*. However, FSIS will continue to sample popped pork skins, pork rinds, dried soup bases, concentrated (high salt content) soup mixes, and pickled pig's feet under both RTE sampling programs. FSIS intends to update FSIS Directive 10,240.4 to reflect the information in this notice and will notify IPP when to begin collecting samples of oils, shortening, lard, margarine, lard margarine, and mixtures of rendered animal fats again.

NOTE: Import Inspection Personnel are to continue to conduct sampling as assigned by the Automated Import Information System (AIIS).

Direct questions to askFSIS at: <http://askfsis.custhelp.com>.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development

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