

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

FSIS NOTICE	60-09	9/2/09
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**ENSURING SAMPLE INTEGRITY WHEN SUBMITTING RESIDUE SAMPLES
TO THE LABORATORY FOR RESIDUE TESTING**

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions and clarifies Agency policy for inspection program personnel (IPP) to ensure sample integrity when they prepare samples from carcasses suspected of having violative levels of chemical residues for submission to the laboratories. This notice also re-emphasizes the existing policy that IPP are to collect tissue samples.

II. BACKGROUND

These instructions apply to samples collected and submitted after IPP have performed an in-plant screening test (Fast Antimicrobial Screen Test (FAST) or Kidney Inhibition Swab Test (KIS™), or when the Public Health Veterinarian (PHV) or Inspector in Charge (IIC) takes samples because he or she suspects residues from Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs (NSAID) (e.g., flunixin or phenylbutazone). NSAIDs are not detected by the in-plant antibiotic screening tests, so the PHV/IIC must follow the instructions in this notice and specifically request that the Midwestern Laboratory analyze for NSAIDs.

NOTE: In cases in which the PHV/IIC suspects the use of NSAIDs, the PHV/IIC is also to perform in-plant antimicrobial residue screening tests because the animals may contain violative levels of antibiotics. The PHV/IIC is to retain the carcasses and parts, unless they are otherwise subject to condemnation, until laboratory confirmation has been received.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 9/1/2010

OPI: OPPD

III. IPP SAMPLE COLLECTION RESPONSIBILITIES

Only IPP are authorized to collect FSIS samples. (See FSIS Directive 10,800.1 Procedures for Residue Sampling, Testing, and Other Responsibilities for the National Residue Program (NRP) for additional information.)

IPP are to retain the carcass and parts, unless otherwise subject to condemnation, pending the antimicrobial residue screening test results. If the rapid in-plant antimicrobial residue screening test result is positive, IPP are to continue to retain the carcass and parts (if the carcass and parts are not condemned) and submit tissue samples (liver, kidney, and muscle tissue) for further analysis to the appropriate laboratory. IPP are to determine which laboratory to use by accessing Laboratory Electronic Application for Results Notification (LEARN) and reviewing the document, *Analyses Performed at each FSIS Laboratory*. Additionally, IPP are to retain the carcass and parts if the PHV/IIC collects samples for NSAIDs and are to request that the Midwestern Laboratory analyze the samples. The exception to this procedure is for import samples which are sent to the Western Laboratory for analysis of Flunixin.

IPP are to ensure that at least one pound of each tissue is submitted for analysis, and that each tissue is placed in a separate plastic bag. The bag is to be closed using a zipper lock closure or, if one is not available, the top of the bag is to be closed by twisting it to remove air and securing it with several loops of rubber band. The twisted end is then folded over and secured again with several loops of rubber band. IPP are to place each bagged specimen into a second bag with a label identifying the tissue. IPP are to apply a small bar-coded sample label from a FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B sample seal label set to the second bag. IPP are to place all of the bagged tissue samples in a large zipper lock bag, press out the air in the large bag and close the bag using the zipper lock. The zipper lock end is to be sealed using the medium-sized bar-coded "FSIS Laboratory Sample Identification Label" (FSIS Form 7355-2B).

IPP are to fill out FSIS Form 10,000-2, Domestic Chemical Analysis, according to the instructions. IPP are to affix one small bar-coded sample label from the same FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B sample seal label set to the sample form. IPP are to place the bar-coded label in the top center, so that it does not obstruct any printed information (other than the title of the form). IPP are to complete the large bar-coded seal from the same FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B sample seal label with the appropriate information and is to sign the seal.

IPP are to freeze the samples and ensure that they remain under FSIS control until Fed-Ex pick up.

IV. IPP SAMPLE SHIPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

To ship samples, IPP are to:

1. Retrieve the frozen gel pack from the freezer and retrieve the shipping container. Pre-chill the shipping container in the refrigerator before use.
2. Place the frozen gel pack in the bottom of the shipping container and place the corrugated cardboard pad supplied on top of the frozen gel pack.
3. Place the frozen tissue samples in the shipping container on top of the cardboard pad. Place the completed sample form and any unused sample seals in the container. Insert the foam plug and press down to minimize the space between the sample and foam plug. If the shipping container does not have a foam plug, place the insulated lid on the container. Do not overfill the shipping container.

NOTE: IPP are not to tape or wrap the samples or use any newspaper or similar material as packing material. Use of such materials may result in the sample being discarded by the laboratory. IPP are to use only the shipping materials provided by the laboratory.

4. Close the box flaps and secure them with packing tape. The completed and signed bar-coded seal is placed across the closed box flaps. Shipping containers with self-sticking (Velcro) closures have the inner flap closed.

5. Place the completed and signed large bar-coded seal FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B across the closed inner flap of the box parallel to the edge of the closed flap. Close the outer flap over the seal without using tape to seal the box. Sample boxes must be properly sealed to ensure sample integrity. Both the top of the box and the bottom seams of the box must be sealed. If the bottom seam of the shipping container is not already sealed upon receipt from the laboratory, IPP are to place a completed FSIS Form 7355-2A across the bottom seam and cover it with clear packaging tape before using the box. Samples arriving at the FSIS Laboratories unsealed or with broken seals will be discarded. IPP are to reference Directive 7335.1, Rev. 2, Use of Sample Seals for Program Samples and Other Applications, for directions on the proper use of sample seals.

6. Do not overfill any of the shipping containers. The security seals are not designed to act as a closure device for the shipping containers. If boxes are overfilled to the point that pressure is placed on self-sticking closures, the seal may break during transport.

NOTE: FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B seal sets need to stay with the applicable sample. Once a component of a seal packet has been used, any unused bar codes, identification labels, or container seals from that packet are to be shipped with the sample to the laboratory for disposal. Using one sample seal set for more than one sample will jeopardize sample identity.

7. Prepare the preaddressed FedEx Billable Stamp Receipt. Fill in the plant number, ship date, and plant phone number. Place the stamp receipt on the box. Be sure to remove any old stamp receipts and FedEx bar codes from the box. Retain the receipt portion of the billable stamp. All samples from positive in-plant residue screening tests are to be shipped to the Midwestern Laboratory. Samples are to be shipped so that they arrive in the laboratory on a weekday. Samples are not to be shipped on Friday, Saturday, or the day before a Federal holiday.

NOTE: IPP are to verify the laboratory name and address provided on the pre-printed FedEx airbill, to ensure that the sample is delivered to the correct laboratory. In the case of samples from positive in-plant residue screening tests, IPP are to ensure that the FedEx airbill is for the Midwestern Laboratory. Failure to ship the sample to the correct laboratory will result in the sample being discarded.

8. Retain a record of the seal packet used for each sample sent to the laboratory and the FedEx airbill information. An additional small bar-coded label may be placed on the inspector's file copy of the submission form or on a log sheet indicating to which sample this seal corresponds.

V. DATA ANALYSIS

The Office of Public Health Science will track the percentage of inappropriately sealed and addressed boxes and report the percentage to Office of Field Operations and Office of Policy and Program Development for appropriate action to remedy sample shipping errors. The data are to be kept by the Office of Public Health Science.

Direct technical questions to the Policy Development Division and all sampling questions to the Risk and Innovations Management Division through *askFSIS* at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development