

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

FSIS NOTICE

73-12

12/20/12

CHANGES IN TESTING PROCEDURES FOR PRODUCT SAMPLES COLLECTED DURING ROUTINE RISK-BASED *Listeria monocytogenes* (RLm) SAMPLING AND INTENSIFIED VERIFICATION TESTING (IVT), AND CHANGES TO THE PRODUCT CATEGORIES FOR ALLRTE AND RTE001

Do not implement until January 2, 2013.

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions for Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) to follow when collecting product samples during routine risk-based *Listeria monocytogenes* (RLm) sampling and Intensified Verification Testing (IVT) performed in response to *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) positives. It also provides a new list of product categories or product groups for ready-to-eat (RTE) sampling programs and instructions for completing FSIS Form 10,210-3. This notice also informs EIAOs that the Agency has changed the project identification code for product samples from RLMPROD to RLMPRODC to denote that the samples are composited at the laboratory. Furthermore, this notice informs inspection program personnel (IPP) that the product categories will be updated for the ALLRTE and RTE001 sampling programs, and that they are to use the new risk levels in the table in this notice when collecting product samples.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Many countries are following the Codex Alimentarius Commission's [Guidelines on the Application of General Principles of Food Hygiene to the Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Foods](#). FSIS is changing its sampling procedures to make FSIS's sample collection and testing of RTE meat and poultry products more consistent with sampling procedures in use internationally.

B. RLm and *Lm* IVT samples are currently collected in sampling units of 10 food contact surface, 5 environmental (non-food contact surface), and 3 ready-to-eat (RTE) product samples, in accordance with FSIS Directives 10,240.5 and 10,300.1.

C. Beginning January 2, 2013, FSIS will increase the number of product samples for the RLm and *Lm* IVT sampling programs from three to five samples per sampling unit.

D. The 5 RLm product samples will be collected individually. FSIS currently uses the project identification code RLMPROD for the testing of RLm product samples. FSIS is changing the project identification code for RLm product samples from RLMPROD to RLMPRODC to denote that the samples are composited at the FSIS laboratory for testing. A single RLMPRODC form will be used for all 5 product samples.

E. FSIS will also increase the number of product samples collected for *Lm* IVTs from 3 to 5 samples per unit; however, FSIS laboratory personnel will not composite the 5 product samples. FSIS will continue to use the project identification code INTPROD for the testing of *Lm* IVT product samples. Individual INTPROD forms will continue to be used for all 5 samples.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 1/1/14

OPI: OPPD

III. RLMPRODC SAMPLE COLLECTION

EIAOs are to:

A. Collect 5 separate product samples per sampling unit from a particular line and processing lot following the instructions in Directive 10,240.5

B. Collect products from the highest risk alternative and the highest risk post-lethality exposed RTE product category using the instructions in 1 and 2 below.

1. First, select products from the highest-risk alternative (Risk: Alternative 3 > Alternative 2 > Alternative 1). For each sampling unit, select products from only one *Lm* control alternative. For example, if an EIAO is collecting one unit, and the establishment produces products under all three alternatives, then the EIAO is to select Alternative 3 product. If the EIAO is collecting more than one unit, then the EIAO is to select products from more than one alternative (as long all the products selected within a given unit are produced under the same alternative).
2. Then, collect product from the highest risk level, according to the table below. Products from multiple product categories or product groups may be collected as part of the same sampling unit; however, all the samples in each unit are to be from the same production lot, processing line, and alternative.

HACCP Processing Categories	Finished Product Categories	Production Volume Categories (by Product Groups)	Risk Level
Fully Cooked-Not Shelf Stable	RTE fully-cooked meat (PLE) ¹ / RTE fully-cooked poultry (PLE)	Other Fully Cooked Sliced Product	1
		Hot Dog Products	2
		Salad/Spread/Pate	3
		Diced/Shredded	4
		Meat + Nonmeat Components	5
		Sausage Products	6
		Patties/Nuggets	7
		Other Fully Cooked Not Sliced Product	8
Not Heat Treated-Shelf Stable/Heat Treated-Shelf Stable	RTE acidified/fermented meat (without cooking)-PLE/ RTE acidified/fermented poultry (without cooking)-PLE	RTE fermented meat (sliced or not sliced)/ RTE fermented poultry (sliced or not sliced) (Acidified/Fermented Products) ²	9
	RTE dried meat (PLE)/ RTE dried poultry (PLE)	RTE dried meat (sliced or not sliced)/RTE dried poultry (sliced or not sliced) (Dried Products) ²	10
	RTE salt-cured meat (PLE)/ RTE salt cured poultry (PLE)	RTE salt-cured meat (sliced or not sliced)/ RTE salt-cured poultry (sliced or not sliced) (Salt-cured Products) ²	11
Product with Secondary Inhibitors – Not Shelf Stable	RTE salt-cured meat (PLE)/ RTE salt cured poultry (PLE)	RTE salt-cured meat (sliced or not sliced)/ RTE salt-cured poultry (sliced or not sliced) (Salt-cured Products) ²	11

¹Post-lethality exposed product.

² Product type to be used on Form 10,210-3.

NOTE: This table replaces the list in Directive 10,240.5, Revision 2, Attachment 3 and Directive 10240.4, Revision 2, Attachment 1. FSIS developed the table in this notice from the FSIS Public Health Information System (PHIS) product categories or product groups in FSIS PHIS Directive 5300.1, the risk ranking in Directive 10,240.5, and internal FSIS information.

C. Collect enough product in its final intact package to submit at least ONE pound of meat or poultry to the lab for analysis. If an intact sample of product is too large to submit to the lab, ask the establishment to slack-fill or short-weight a package to one pound without making any changes to its processing operations. Slack-fill or short-weight samples are to be taken from the product that is produced in the same manner as the original sample. If this is not possible, contact the lab to see if a larger shipping container is available.

D. Use only one **RLMPRODC** form per 5-sample unit.

E. Fill in the following fields for block 28 of FSIS Form 10,210-3 for each unit collected:

28. REMARKS		Product Line Alternative: ALT 1 ___	ALT 2 ANAP ___	ALT2 PLT ___	ALT 3 ___
Line ID: _____	Product Type: ___	Product Name: _____	Lot Code: _____	Time Collected: _____	
	Product Type: ___	Product Name: _____	Lot Code: _____	Time Collected: _____	
	Product Type: ___	Product Name: _____	Lot Code: _____	Time Collected: _____	
	Product Type: ___	Product Name: _____	Lot Code: _____	Time Collected: _____	
	Product Type: ___	Product Name: _____	Lot Code: _____	Time Collected: _____	
Production Date: _____	Was plant management notified of sample collection? ___ Yes ___ No				
Establishment Contact Person: _____	Phone No: _____				

1. Line ID: Use the line ID in use by the establishment. If no line ID is available, leave blank.
2. Product Line Alternative: Include products from only one alternative.
3. Product Type: Select a product type number from block 18.
4. Product Name: Use the product name in use by the establishment (i.e., the name on the product's label).
5. Lot Code: Use the lot code in use by the establishment.
6. Time Collected: Use the time that the product is collected. EIAOs are to collect product at multiple times during a single production shift, if possible.

F. Use a separate sample seal set (FSIS form 7355-A/B) for each individual sample collected. Place one separately numbered identification label on each sample, and place a corresponding identification label in block 33 of the form.

G. Include a completed FSIS Form 10,210-3 with the five product samples. If it is necessary to send a unit of product samples in multiple boxes, include a copy of the completed RLMPRODC form in each box. Write "photocopy" on each copy of the original form and number each box (e.g., 1 of 2 and 2 of 2). Include the original form in one of the boxes.

NOTE: The laboratory will composite the five RLMPRODC samples submitted per RLm unit and will post one result on the Laboratory Electronic Application for Results Notification (LEARN).

IV. *Lm* INTPROD SAMPLE COLLECTION

The only change to current *Lm* INTPROD sample collection is that EIAOs are to collect **5** separate product samples per sampling unit following the instructions in Directive 10,300.1. EIAOs are to use a separate **INTPROD** form for each sample. The product categories listed in part III. B. 2. above, will also be used for IVT samples. The five INTPROD samples submitted per IVT unit will be tested individually without being composited at the FSIS laboratory.

NOTE: FSIS is not changing the sampling unit for IVT when sampling for *Salmonella*. When sampling for *Salmonella*, EIAOs are to collect 5 product samples, 8 environmental samples, and 5 food contact samples.

V. INSTRUCTIONS FOR IPP ON THE ALLRTE and RTE001 SAMPLING PROGRAMS

On implementation of this notice, FSIS will change the dropdown menus for the ALLRTE and RTE001 sampling programs to reflect the PHIS product categories, as described in the table in Section III above. IPP are to use the risk levels in the table when collecting samples under the RTE001 sampling program.

NOTE: IPP are still to collect one 2 pound product sample for the ALLRTE and RTE001 sampling programs. The sample will not be composited.

VI. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice through [askFSIS](#). When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **RLMPRODC sampling**
Question Field: **Enter your question with as much detail as possible.**
Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.
Category Field: Select **Sampling: Listeria monocytogenes** from the drop-down menu.
Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** or **International (Import/Export)** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press the **Submit** button.



Assistant Administrator
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