

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

FSIS NOTICE

79-11

12/28/11

COMPOSITING OF ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES COLLECTED DURING ROUTINE RISK-BASED *Listeria monocytogenes* (RLm) SAMPLING

I. PURPOSE

This notice reissues the content of FSIS Notice 59-10, which expired on November 1, 2011. Because that notice provided important instructions to Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) on collecting environmental (non-food contact) samples during routine risk-based *Listeria monocytogenes* (RLm) sampling, and instructions on how to complete FSIS Form 10,210-3, FSIS considers it necessary to reissue this information. In addition, this notice informs EIAOs that the Agency has changed the project identification code for environmental samples from RLMENVR to RLMENVC to denote that the samples are composited at the laboratory. Clarifications have also been made to the environmental site examples and the number of swabs collected at each site (Section III, Sample Collection).

II. BACKGROUND

A. Under FSIS Directive 10,240.5, Verification Procedures for Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) for the *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) Regulation and Routine Risk-Based *Lm* (RLm) Sampling Program, EIAOs conduct RLm sampling when they conduct a routine Food Safety Assessment (FSA).

B. According to FSIS Directive 10,240.5, RLm samples are collected in sampling units of 10 food contact surface, 5 environmental (non-food contact surface), and 3 product samples. RLm environmental samples will continue to be collected individually at official establishments; however, a single RLMENVC form is to be used for all 5 swab samples. FSIS laboratory personnel will composite the 5 environmental swab samples, and one result will be reported.

C. In situations where a for-cause FSA is conducted, such as during Intensified Verification Testing (IVT), FSIS laboratory personnel will not composite environmental swab samples.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 1/1/13

OPI: OPPD

III. SAMPLE COLLECTION

A. EIAOs are to:

1. Collect 5 separate environmental (non contact surface) swabs per sampling unit following the instructions in Directive 10,300.1. Use only one **RLMENVC** form per unit.
2. In block 28 of FSIS Form 10,210-3, under question 3, state the **number of swabs submitted for each site category**. The five swabs may be from the same sites or different sites. If a sample site swabbed does not fit any of the site categories listed in question 3, then next to choice "J-Other/Details," the EIAO is to state the number of swabs, along with a short written description (not to exceed 50 characters in the space provided next to that option) of the sites swabbed.

Example of a properly completed question 3 in block 28 of the 10,210-3 form (2 drains, 1 boot, and 2 other samples): Environmental Sites: write in the number of swabs collected at each site:

<u> 2 </u> A –Drain	<u> </u> D –Wheel(s)	<u> </u> G – Floor
<u> </u> B –Table	<u> 1 </u> E –Boot	<u> </u> H –Squeegee
<u> </u> C –Floor Mat	<u> </u> F –Slicer	<u> </u> I –Door
		<u> 2 </u> J –Other/Details: - On-off switch; supply air duct

3. Place each swab in a separate whirl-pak bag. The EIAO is to use a separate sample seal set (FSIS form 7355-A/B) for each individual swab sample collected. Place one separately numbered identification label on each swab sample and place a corresponding identification label on the form. Place all five bar-coded labels side-by-side in block 33 of the RLMENVC form.

NOTE: Environmental (non contact) brine samples will not be composited. Environmental brine samples are still to be collected using the RLMENVR form. The EIAO needs to request a separate RLMENVR form, along with special supplies for brine collection. RLMCONT forms will still be used for the collection of brine samples that contact product.

4. For each sampling unit, place all five of the swab samples, which will be in separate whirl-pak bags, and a single RLMENVC form in a separate large Ziplock bag. Fold over the top of the bag and seal it with a bar-coded identification label (FSIS Form 7355-2B).
5. Submit all five swabs in the sampling unit with a single RLMENVC form. The laboratory is to composite the five swab samples and post one result on the Laboratory Electronic Application for Results Notification (LEARN). The description of the sites that will appear in LEARN will be a coding of the information provided in question 3 from block 28. For the example provided in Section A.2 above, LEARN would display "2A1E2J On-off switch; supply air duct" as the site information.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Joseph". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development