



# Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## New *askFSIS* Questions and Answers to be Announced Weekly

The Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) will provide a more continuous service to assist customers and provide notification and easy access to questions and answers (Q&As) that represent Agency policy.

In September 2007, FSIS launched a web-based feature, *askFSIS*, designed to help answer technical and policy-related questions from inspection program personnel, industry, consumer groups, other stakeholders and the public.

The application is knowledge based and is searchable by visitors for answers related to diverse topics such as exporting, labeling and inspection-related policies, programs and procedures.

Visit *askFSIS* weekly at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> for the answers you need. This feature also offers Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds that link back to the posted Q&As. The following is a question that OPPD recently featured in *askFSIS*:

### Directive 6100.1 Revision 1

Q&As for FSIS Directive 6100.1 Revision 1, *Ante-Mortem Livestock Inspection* have been updated and incorporates questions and answers originally posted in January 2008, with FSIS Directive 6100.1.

This action was taken to assist inspection program personnel who have questions related to this revised issuance. Search the *askFSIS* database using the search term “6100.1” to review all questions.

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## Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

**China**  
**Croatia**  
**Honduras**  
**Indonesia**  
**Japan**  
**Kazakhstan**  
**Philippines**  
**Russia**  
**St. Lucia**  
**Thailand**  
**Ukraine**

**United Arab Emirates**

Complete information can be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations\\_&\\_Policies/Export\\_Information/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp).

**FSIS Constituent Update** is prepared by the Office of Congressional and Public Affairs (CPA).

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## FSIS to Hold Regulatory Education Workshops

The Agency will host two regulatory education workshops in Little Rock, Arkansas, and Atlanta, Georgia, for owners and operators of small and very small plants.

The workshops will cover a variety of topics and prerequisite programs, including Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP), sanitation performance standards, sanitation standard operating procedures, rules of practice, food defense strategies and *E. coli* O157:H7.

The May 6 session will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 424

West Markham in Little Rock, Arkansas, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

The May 9 session will be held at the Sheraton Atlanta, 165 Courtland Street in Atlanta, Georgia, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Online registration forms and information about upcoming sessions can be found at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Registration\\_Regulatory\\_Ed\\_Sessions/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Registration_Regulatory_Ed_Sessions/index.asp). Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

## FSIS to Hold Educational Meeting on Enhanced Enforcement of Imported Products

On May 7, the Agency will conduct an educational meeting regarding the recently enhanced enforcement program for imported products containing small amounts of meat or poultry ingredients.

FSIS is enhancing its programs to ensure approved source requirements are met and to achieve the sanitary processing and prevention of intentional or non-intentional contamination.

Affected industry organizations, importers and manufacturers of food products containing small amounts of meat or poultry ingredients will learn what will be required for these products to enter the United States after June 22.

The May 7 meeting will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, Historic District, 400 Arch Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

For more information and to register, contact OOEET at (800) 336-3747.

## Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli*

Weekly updates for the Agency's raw beef *E. coli* sampling program are posted to the FSIS Web site.

For comparative 2008 and 2009 results, go to [www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground\\_Beef\\_E.Coli\\_Testing\\_Results/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.Coli_Testing_Results/index.asp).

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## Slaughter Inspection 101 Fact Sheet

“Slaughter Inspection 101” describes the mission of FSIS, the basics of inspection and the duties performed by FSIS inspectors in meat and poultry slaughter facilities.

Have questions? View details at [www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact\\_Sheets/Slaughter\\_Inspection\\_101/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Fact_Sheets/Slaughter_Inspection_101/index.asp).



## FSIS Issues Directive

FSIS issues directives and notices to enhance the Agency's efforts in protecting public health. The following directive was issued this week:

- Directive 6100.3 Revision 1, *Ante Mortem and Post Mortem Poultry Inspection*.

- Directive 9500.1, *Automated Import Information System (AIIS) Contingency Plan*.

All directives and notices are available on the FSIS Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations\\_&\\_policies/regulations\\_directives\\_&\\_notices/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/regulations_directives_&_notices/index.asp).

## Updates on H1N1 Flu

In response to an intensifying outbreak of H1N1 Flu, USDA has posted frequently asked questions and answers to its Web site at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov).

Also be sure to visit Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) for more updates and to learn more about H1N1 Flu.

## FSIS Posts New Podcasts



Tune in and subscribe to podcasts that offer information on the selection, handling and preparation of meat and poultry products to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

This week, FSIS released podcasts helpful to the everyday consumer and to plant owners and operators.

### Food Safety at Home – Focus on Ground Beef (English)

### Humane Handling of Livestock - Exotic Species, Part 5 of 7

Check out these new podcasts on FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/news\\_&\\_events/Podcasts/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/Podcasts/index.asp).