



# Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

## FSIS Testing Results for Melamine in Retail Meat and Poultry Products

In response to public health concerns regarding contamination of imported milk-derived food ingredients in FDA-regulated products, FSIS tested certain meat and poultry products for the presence of melamine.

The Agency tested products that contain milk and milk-derived ingredients, including baby food, cooked sausages, breaded chicken, meatballs and dough items, such as stuffed sandwiches and snacks wrapped in dough.

No meat or poultry products tested by FSIS for the presence of melamine posed a human health risk. FDA established this level at 2.5 parts per million (ppm) for food products and 1.0 ppm for infant formula.

Of the 539 samples tested for melamine, collected nationwide from the week of December 15, 2008, until March 24, 2009, 531, or 98.5 percent, were negative. The remaining eight positive samples had detectable melamine concentrations well below the level of public health concern, ranging from 0.013 ppm to 0.256 ppm.

The complete report of FSIS testing results for melamine in retail meat and poultry products, including information on sampling methodology, can be found on the FSIS Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Testing\\_Results\\_Melamine\\_May2009.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Testing_Results_Melamine_May2009.pdf).

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### Inside this Issue

Public Meeting for <i>Listeria monocytogenes</i> .....	2
Committee Meeting for FSIS Food Safety Programs .....	2
Get Answers at <i>AskFSIS</i> .....	3
Import Products Educational Meetings .....	3
New Podcasts .....	4

## Export Requirement Updates



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

**Mexico**

**Russia**

**St. Lucia**

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).

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## FSIS to Host Public Meeting on Interagency Risk Assessment for *Listeria monocytogenes*

FSIS is co-sponsoring a public meeting with the Department of Health and Human Service's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on June 23, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., to present background, approach, scope and data needs for a recently initiated interagency risk assessment of the public health impact of foodborne *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) in some ready-to-eat foods that are sliced, prepared or packaged in retail facilities.

The purpose of this meeting is to ascertain the effect on public health where current practices and potential interventions reduce or prevent *Lm* contamination in ready-to-eat foods. FSIS and FDA are inviting interested individuals, organizations and other stakeholders to participate in the meeting and comment on this topic.

The meeting will be held at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel, 480 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., Washington, D.C. More information, including the agenda, will be in future issues of the *Constituent Update*.

## Committee on the Use of Public Health Data in FSIS Food Safety Programs Holds Second Meeting

On June 3, the standing committee for the Use of Public Health Data in FSIS Food Safety Programs will hold its second bi-annual meeting to review FSIS data analyses and risk-based approaches for food inspection.

Since September 2008, the Agency has worked with the National Academies of Science for independent scientific reviews consistent with recommendations made by the Office of the Inspector General and other stakeholders.

The committee will discuss the findings of three completed studies for FSIS about public health decision criteria, risk-based surveillance of in-commerce activities and the proposed approach for public-health attribution.

Agency officials will also brief the committee to initiate a fourth study examining FSIS' proposed risk-based approach to in-commerce follow-up surveillance. That study will be completed in fall 2009.

The meeting will be held at the Keck Center of the National Academies, 500 Fifth Street, N.W., Room 101, Washington, D.C. Contact Ruthie Arieti at (202) 344-2856 or [http://dels.nas.edu/banr/fsis\\_mtg2.shtml](http://dels.nas.edu/banr/fsis_mtg2.shtml) for more information and registration details.

## Ask Karen



Consumers with food safety questions can “Ask Karen,” the FSIS virtual representative available 24 hours a day at [www.AskKaren.gov](http://www.AskKaren.gov).



## USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline

Food safety experts are available year-round from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time to answer questions in English and Spanish about safely preparing and cooking foods.

The toll-free number is **1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)**. Recorded messages are also available 24 hours a day.

## Get Answers at AskFSIS

AskFSIS is searchable by visitors and designed to help answer policy-related questions on topics such as exporting, labeling, inspection, programs and procedures. Visit <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> to find the answers to your questions.

### Recently Posted Questions and Answers

Directive 6100.1, Revision 1, *Disposition of Non-ambulatory Disabled Bovine.*

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=1230](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1230)

Directive 6100.1, Revision 1, *Handling of U.S. Condemned Non-ambulatory Disabled Bovine.*

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=1231](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1231)

Directive 6100.1, Revision 1, *Holding and Treatment of U.S. Condemned Non-ambulatory Disabled Bovine.*

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=1232](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1232)

Directive 6100.1, Revision 1, *Are U.S. Condemned Dispositions Reversible?*

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=1233](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1233)

Directive 6100.1, Revision 1, *Can Disposition of Animals Subject to Disposition be Postponed?*

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=1234](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1234)

*Effect of Final Intervention on Salmonella Verification Sample Collection.*

[http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std\\_adp.php?p\\_faqid=1235](http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1235)

## FSIS Extends Outreach with Educational Meetings on Enhanced Enforcement of Imported Products

The Agency will conduct educational meetings in June 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

*Continued on page four*

## Updates on FSIS Testing for *E. coli* O157:H7

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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## USDA to Host 2010 Food Safety Education Conference

To help educate stakeholders, USDA and NSF International are hosting the 2010 Food Safety Education Conference, *Advancements in Food Safety: Trends, Tools and Technologies*, from March 23 to 26 at the Hyatt Regency in Atlanta, Georgia.

Food safety educators and other professionals worldwide will have the opportunity to discover the latest advancements in food safety education, including trends, tools and technologies.

For more information, visit [www.fsis.usda.gov/Atlanta2010](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Atlanta2010).

## Imported Products Meetings...

*Continued from page three...*

will learn what will be required for these products to enter the United States after June 22.

For more information and to register, contact the Office of Outreach, Employee Education and Training at (800) 336-3747.

Also, be sure to check the "Meetings and Events" page of FSIS' Web site at [www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Meetings_&_Events/index.asp) for more updates.

<b>June 5</b> 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. USDA's South Building 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C.	<b>June 9</b> 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Doubletree Hotel 200 Marina Boulevard Berkley, California.
<b>June 16</b> 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hilton Newark Airport 1170 Spring Street Elizabeth, New Jersey	



## 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 both consumers and plant owners and operators.

### Food Safety at Home: Let's Talk Chicken (English and Spanish)

### Notice of Intended Enforcement: Requirements for Prior Notification - Part 2 of 4

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). Spanish language consumer podcasts are available at [www.fsis.usda.gov/En\\_Espanol/Podcasts\\_SP/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/Podcasts_SP/index.asp).