



Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS and FDA Hold Public Meeting on Interagency Retail *Listeria monocytogenes* (*Lm*) Risk Assessment

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services held a public meeting to introduce their joint risk assessment of *Lm* contamination in ready-to-eat food that are sliced, prepared and packaged in retail facilities.

The meeting was designed to encourage stakeholder participation early in the developing stages of the assessment – part of an ongoing process to garner data, information and input from diverse expertise and resources.

Representatives of regulatory agencies, food safety associations and consumer and industry groups discussed the level, prevalence and subtypes of *Lm* in the retail environment. Also discussed was other scientific information and data needed to develop a risk assessment to better understand how cross-contamination at retail occurs and its impact to public health.

Of note were discussions around cross-contamination, mitigation and prevention strategies, as well as behaviors of both food handlers and consumers.

In addition to feedback received at the public meeting, FSIS is requesting a wide variety of data and information for the risk assessment, including:

- characteristics of ready-to-eat food markets in the United States, such as the volume of products sliced/prepared by manufacturers and/or retail facilities;

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Argentina

Canada

Complete information can be found at 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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Imported Products Meeting...

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- characteristics of deli departments in grocery stores;
- *Lm* levels and/or frequencies in products arriving at and sold by retail facilities;
- factors that influence the growth of *Lm* in cheeses, deli meats and deli-type salads, such as chemical characteristics, temperatures exposed to at retail, proportions of products treated with growth inhibitors, etc.;
- environmental contamination or the prevalence and level of *Lm* at retail;
- factors that influence environmental contamination and cross-contamination, including data and information on the potential transfer of food from retail and food handlers' activities; and
- the identity and effectiveness of control measures and interventions at retail for *Lm*.

Other data related to the occurrence, growth and control of *Lm* are also requested. Constituents can submit this type of information and public comments to either of the following dockets on www.regulations.gov FDA-2008-N0658 or FSIS-2009-0012. The dockets are open until September 29. Comments may also be sent to the Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSIS, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 2534, South Building, Washington, D.C. 20250.

For more information on the public meeting, including a full agenda, presentations for the risk assessment, visit the FSIS Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Past_Events/index.asp. Transcripts for this meeting will be posted to the Agency's Web site as they become available. Look to future issues of FSIS' *Constituent Update* for more details.

FSIS Issues Directive

FSIS issues notices and directives to enhance the Agency's efforts in protecting public health. The following policy update was recently issued:

Directive 9500.4, *Pre-Stamping Imported Product*.

All notices and directives are available on FSIS' Web site at www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/index.asp.

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.



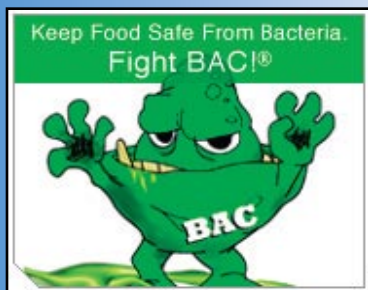
This week, FSIS released podcasts helpful to both consumers and plant owners and operators.

Food Safety at Home: Food Safety When Cooking Out (English and Spanish)

Food Defense: Warehouse/ Distribution Centers Part 2 of 5

Check out these new podcasts on FSIS' Web site at 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.



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

Subject - Notice 05-09 Considering *E. coli* O157:H7 During the Hazard Analysis

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1246

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1247

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1248

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1249

Subject - Notice 05-09 ISP Codes Applicable to Notice 05-09

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1250

Subject - Notice 05-09 Certificate of Analysis (COA) or Purchase Specifications

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1251

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1252

Subject - Notice 05-09 Trimming and Washing of Exposed Beef Parts

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1253

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1254

Subject - Notice 05-09 Production of Raw Corned Beef, Roast Beef

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1255

Brand Authorization Certificate; Form and Regulation

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1258

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.