



Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

Public Meeting to be Held on Interstate Shipment via Teleconference

In an effort to solicit comments on the proposed rule for interstate shipment, FSIS will hold its second teleconference for stakeholders next week.

The teleconference format is being used to provide easier access for all individuals and to ensure widespread participation.

The meeting is scheduled for Nov. 5, from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Preregistration for the meeting is required to receive conference call information. Visit the FSIS Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/meetings_&_events/index.asp. The agency encourages participants to join 10-15 minutes before the meeting begins. A time limit will be set for comments based on the number of participants. Additional comments may also be submitted in writing to become part of the record as specified in the related *Federal Register* notice published on Sept. 16.

Comments may be submitted through the *Federal eRulemaking* portal at <http://www.regulations.gov> or by mail to: FSIS Docket Room, USDA, FSIS, OPPD, Docket Clearance Unit, 5601 Sunnyside Ave., Stop 5272, Beltsville, MD 20705.

All comments must identify FSIS and docket number FSIS-2008-0039 and be submitted on or before Nov. 16.

Comments will be available for review at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_&_policies/2009_Interim_&_Final_Rules_Index/index.asp.

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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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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:

Jordan

Complete information can be found at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Export_Information/index.asp.

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Office.

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FSIS Hosting Web Outreach Seminars

To promote a uniform understanding of FSIS regulations, the agency launched a six-part series of Web outreach seminars for plant owners and operators—especially those of small and very small plants.

The final session of this series is scheduled for Nov. 5. The topic will be on selecting good manufacturing practices and sanitation performance standards necessary to support a small plant's food safety system.

Three 90-minute sessions will be offered via net conferencing at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. (ET) to accommodate plant owners and operators nationwide.

To register, go to http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/Regulatory_Web_Seminars/index.asp. E-mail questions about upcoming outreach seminars to FSIS.Seminars@fsis.usda.gov.

Get Answers at AskFSIS

AskFSIS is a Web-based technology and policy question-and-answer forum on topics such as exporting, labeling, inspection, programs and procedures.

In addition, *AskFSIS* offers Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds that link back to the Q&As. Visit <http://askfsis.custhelp.com/> to find the answers to your questions and receive automatic updates. Recently posted topics include:

Allergen statement on labels

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1310

Do incidental additives used as processing agents have to be declared?

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1312

Is there a “sensitively level” below which potential or known allergens may be permitted without declaration on the label?

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1313

Net weight on chitterlings

http://askfsis.custhelp.com/cgi-bin/askfsis.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1309

Be Food Safe!

The *Kitchen Companion: Your Safe Food Handbook* contains all the basic information you need to know about food safety... some old, some new... and all in one place.

To view the handbook, go to http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Kitchen_Companion.pdf.



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

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

For comparative 2008 and 2009 results, go to http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Ground_Beef_E.coli_Testing_Results/index.asp.



www.AskKaren.gov

New Podcasts



Tune in to podcasts on selecting, handling and preparing meat and poultry products to reduce the risk of foodborne illness.

This week, FSIS released this podcast helpful to consumers.

Food Safety at Home: Halloween or Costume Festivals and Food Safety (English and Spanish)

Check out this new podcast and renew your subscription at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/Podcasts/index.asp. Spanish language consumer podcasts are available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/En_Espanol/Podcasts_SP/index.asp. Video-casts in American Sign Language are available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_&_events/SignFSIS/index.asp.

To continue automatically receiving podcasts, renew your subscription. For assistance, e-mail podcast@fsis.usda.gov.

Check It Out on the FSIS Web Site



Visit the FSIS Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/index.asp and click on the *FLU.GOV* widget to get helpful information on where to get the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines, read myths and facts or even take an H1N1 flu self-evaluation.