

August 2004

ADDITIONAL RESIDUE TESTING PROGRAM FOR FRESH MEAT EXPORTED TO THE EU

The EU Additional Residue Testing Program is outlined in the European Union Guidelines located in the Export Requirement library (<http://www.fsis.usda.gov>.) This program was initiated in 1989, under the responsibility of FSIS, International Programs, Export Coordination Division, with technical input from the Residue Staff. All red meat slaughter establishments approved for export of meat and/or offals to the EU are required to participate in the program. In 1996, the EU modified their residue control requirements for Member States, as well as for third countries. These requirements, which are reflected in Council Directive 96/22/EC and 96/23/EC, became effective July 1997. The United States has incorporated these modifications into the EU Additional Residue Testing Program.

Currently, the Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation (OPPDE), International Policy Staff (IPS) coordinates the additional testing program for products destined to the EU. Technical assistance is provided from the Office of Field Operations (OFO), Technical Service Center (Import/Export Control Staff and the Residue Control Staff) (TSC), and the Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS). FSIS continues to progress the discussions with the European Commission ((DG SANCO) on equivalence of the residue control programs.

Effective March 1999, Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS), Science and Technology Program (S&T) initiated an oversight program of the laboratories conducting analytical residue chemistry for the EU program at the request of FSIS. AMS, S&T, Technical Services Branch, Washington, D.C. was responsible for the AMS European Meat Export Laboratory Program, which is now administered by FSIS, OPHS, Chemistry Branch. Currently, the only North American Laboratory qualified under this program is Maxxam Analytics, Inc., Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. Effective August 23, 2004, the following is the contact information: phone numbers (905) 817-5700 or 1-800-563-6266, Email info@maxxamanalytics.com and Website www.maxxamanalytics.com. Additional laboratories interested in participating in this program should contact FSIS, OPPDE, IPS at (202) 720-6400 for additional information. A summary of the analyte testing profile, including the compounds, the method of detection, the target tissue, species to be tested and the target limit of detection, along with the EU action levels is available.

Effective August 23, 2004, all tissue samples collected under this program will be sent to Maxxam Analytics, Inc., 6740 Campobello Rd., Mississauga, Ontario, L5N 2L8, Canada.

The following steps outline the existing program:

Roles and responsibilities. OPHS, Biological Sciences Division, Chemistry Branch: Responsible for technical assistance, analytical and monitoring components to assess and oversee the analytical performance of the laboratories participating in the EU “Additional Residue Program.” AMS, S&T will serve on a consultative basis, as needed.

OPPDE, IPS: Responsible for negotiating the development of equivalence of the residue control programs with the European Union. Until an agreement is reached, IPD will continue to oversee the current program, working cooperatively with the Technical Service Center (TSC) to monitor the number of samples requested, collected and analyzed. IPS will receive and store results reported by the laboratory, submit period reports to the inspection personnel in the slaughter establishments and submit an annual summary of results to the EU. IPS is also responsible for approving any modifications to the testing categories and sample frequencies.

OFO, TSC, Import/Export Staff: Responsible for providing technical support and interpretation to the industry, as well as coordinating the addition or removal of approved slaughter establishments for the EU.

OFO, TSC, Residue Control Staff: Responsible for monitoring the monthly sampling regime, as well as the results of the residue analyses of the EU program. Working cooperatively with OPPDE and OPHS, the ROS will initiate FSIS follow-up of violative positive results by coordinating additional sampling, if warranted, and appropriate notification to the Food and Drug Administration and the producer.

OPHS, Food Hazard Surveillance Branch: Responsible for generating monthly sample request forms for distribution to participating slaughter establishments, as well as providing detail report of these scheduled samples to OFO/TSC and OPPDE/IPS. OPHS/FSHD will work cooperatively with OPPDE/IPS to ensure timely distribution of the forms.

1. **Participation in the program.** All red meat establishments approved for export to the EU are required to participate in the additional residue program. The TSC, Import/Export Coordination Staff will coordinate the addition or removal of an approved slaughter plant. . Further, the slaughter establishment must advise OFO/TSC if it operates on a seasonal basis, so that samples can be adjusted accordingly. Any changes to this designation must be provided to the TSC, who will forward the information to OPPDE/IPS. Once a slaughter establishment becomes eligible to ship to the EU, OPPDE/IPS communicates this to OPHS, Food Hazard Surveillance Division (FSHD) in writing.
2. **Sample requests.** Sample request forms (FSIS form 10,210-3) are preprinted and distributed by OPHS, FHSB periodically. These forms are mailed directly to the

Inspector-In-Charge (IIC) at the designated establishment from FSIS/Washington, D.C. The information on the form includes the specified timeframe the sample is to be collected, the designated contract laboratory performing the analyses, the target tissue(s), and the compounds to be analyzed. Compounds are grouped together into “testing categories”, identifying the current compound/tissue matrix. OPHS will provide a monthly “detail” list or a summary of all the scheduled samples to the TSC, SOS, Residue Control Staff, when the sample request forms are mailed. In addition, a summary of the samples destined to each laboratory will be provided to OPPDE/IPS.

The FSIS IIC will collect and secure the requested sample(s) and will express mail these to the appropriate laboratory overnight. If no sample is available or the sample request form arrives after the scheduled collection date, the form is returned to the OPPDE/IPS so that the sampling frequency can be adjusted, if necessary.

3. **Number of samples (identification of compounds).** The annual number of samples targeted per compound for 1999 is listed in the EU Requirements located in the Export Library. This sampling frequency is based on the volume of product exported to the EU the previous year. Distribution of the samples targeted for each compound is based on the requirements as outlined in Council Directive 96/23/EC.
4. **Reporting results.** The independent laboratories must report results of the analytical tests to FSIS, OPPDE, IPS, who will forward these results to the IIC in the slaughter establishment. The laboratories may also provide copies of the results to the plant management at the approved slaughter plant. Annual summaries of these results are provided to the EC, which are transmitted by IPS.

Violative positive reports must be provided immediately to FSIS, so that appropriate action can be taken. OPPDE, IPS will notify OPHS and the TSC, as well as the EC, when a violation is reported, so that follow up action can be taken.