

SECTION 8. PLANNING THE 2001 FSIS DOMESTIC MONITORING PLAN AND SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND IMPORT RESIDUE PLAN: ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS

The candidate environmental and processing contaminants of concern selected by members of the Surveillance Advisory Team (SAT) were as follows:

--Environmental Contaminants:

- C dioxins
- C heavy metals
- C mycotoxins

--Processing Contaminants:

- C nitrosamines
- C maillard reaction products (from charring)
- C compounds migrating from packaging
- C polyaromatic hydrocarbons
- C breakdown products of oils used in deep frying

The two compound classes identified as of concern by the Surveillance Advisory Team. The first set of compounds was the heavy metals, particularly lead. Suggested projects included a baseline study for levels of heavy metals in meat and poultry, and a Special Project to analyze for lead in raw meat products used in baby food, and in baby food containing vegetable root material.

The second set of compounds was the dioxins. FSIS would like to conduct a survey of dioxin compounds in steers/heifers, market hogs, young chickens, and young turkeys. However, no sampling for dioxins is anticipated in 2001, because of resource limitations.

If required, processing contaminants can be analyzed as part of an FSIS Emergency Response Project. Should an environmental contamination incident occur, FSIS can initiate Special Projects to respond to such incidents, as needed.