

Enclosure 4

Part 3: Laboratory Sampling (11/08/07)

Section 1: Laboratory Sampling General Procedures

NOTIFICATION of OPTION to HOLD PRODUCT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

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EXAMPLE COPY- To be distributed to import establishment management on a quarterly basis as a reminder of the option to Voluntarily HOLD sampled product.

Whenever a verification sample is selected for food chemistry, microbiological, species, or residue analysis the **importer** or their designee (e.g., import establishment, broker) has the option to request that the product not be stamped "U.S. Inspected & Passed" and to place the product on voluntary hold. See Import Manual of Procedures, Part 3, Section 1, Laboratory Sampling General Procedures for more information on Voluntary Hold.

The timeframe for the laboratory to report the results varies depending on the requested analysis, ranging from one – 14 days (see Import Manual of Procedures, Part 3, Section 1, X., Table A). Laboratory results are automatically transferred into the Automated Import Information System (AIIS) and will be provided to you by the import inspector. Import establishment management can receive results electronically directly from the FSIS laboratory by providing your e-mail address to the import inspector at your import establishment for entry into the Performance Based Inspection System (PBIS).

Once acceptable results are reported, product will then be stamped "U.S. Inspected and Passed." If the laboratory analysis is not in compliance, shipments on voluntary hold will be stamped "U.S. Refused Entry" and can be returned to the country of origin.

If the analysis results in positive findings, and the product has been distributed, FSIS will request that the **importer of record** conduct a recall. If a recall is needed, FSIS expects the recall to be initiated in a timely fashion, usually the same day (See FSIS Directive 8080.1, Revision 4 for details). Because this product has been stamped "U.S. Inspected & Passed," disposition is held to destruction, or, pending approval, conversion to animal food or further processing. It is not allowed to be exported from the United States or to be returned to the country of origin.

To protect the public health and to avoid the negative impact of a recall, FSIS strongly recommends that all product represented by the sample be held pending laboratory results.