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FSIS Constituent Update

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FSIS Finds Ireland Beef Processes Equivalent to the U.S.

FSIS conducted an on-site audit of Ireland's Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) food safety inspection system from June 30 – July 7, 2014. This audit has concluded that DAFM has implemented a beef slaughter inspection system that is considered to be equivalent to FSIS' domestic inspection system.

The request by Ireland to ship beef carcasses, including halves and quarters, to the United States is a reinstatement of their prior equivalency determination to ship beef, which was stopped in 1998. This reinstatement represents the first action to ship beef to the United States from a member country of the European Union. The final audit report was sent to Ireland on Dec. 30, 2014, and is now available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/importing-products/eligible-countries-products-foreign-establishments/foreign-audit-reports> audit reports.

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Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated for the following countries:

Canada
Cuba
Indonesia
Mexico
Philippines
Singapore
Taiwan

Complete information can be found at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>.

Upcoming NACMPI Meeting

USDA's National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) will meet Jan. 13-14, 2015, in Patriots Plaza III located at 355 E St., SW; Washington, D.C. The meeting will analyze FSIS' evaluation and management of chemical hazards within the National Residue Program and the illness cost calculation model that the Economic Research Service (ERS) and FSIS developed and posted.

On January 13, the plenary session will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., ET. Two subcommittees will meet concurrently from 1-5 p.m., ET. The full committee will reconvene on January 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. ET.

The meeting agenda will be posted prior to the meeting and made available publicly via live streaming video at www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/advisory-committees/nacmpi/nacmpi-meetings.

Please register for the meeting at www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/advisory-committees/nacmpi/nacmpi-meetings/nacmpi-registration.

Established in 1971, the NACMPI provides advice to the Secretary of Agriculture concerning State and Federal programs with respect to meat, poultry and processed egg products inspection.

Draft Establishment-Specific Data Release Strategic Plan Now Posted

Today, FSIS posted the Establishment-Specific Data Release Strategic Plan (the draft Plan) for sharing data on federally inspected meat and poultry establishments with the public at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/98c33278-53dd-4228-a695-54f429cf4413/Establishment-Specific-Data-Release-Plan.pdf?MOD=AJPERES>. FSIS also posted an advanced copy of a *Federal Register* notice announcing the availability of the draft Plan at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register/federal-register-notice>.

FSIS developed the draft Plan in response to memoranda released by President Obama and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that called for: increased data sharing; an Executive Order for agencies to develop plans for making information available to the public; review of National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI) recommendations; as well as those from the National Research Council (NRC).

FSIS is providing 60 days for public comment, and may update the draft Plan in response to comments. Comments on the draft Plan may be submitted by any of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal, available at <http://www.regulations.gov>; Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.: Send to Docket Room Manager, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Patriots Plaza 3, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163B, Washington, DC 20250-3700. Hand- or courier-delivered submittals should be delivered to Patriots Plaza 3, 355 E. St., SW, Room 8-163B, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Extended Comment Period for the Economic Analysis for Shiga Toxin-Producing *E. coli* (STEC) in Certain Raw Beef Products

On Nov. 19, 2014, FSIS published a *Federal Register* notice announcing that it had completed and was making available its analysis of the estimated costs and benefits associated with the implementation of its non-O157 STEC testing of beef manufacturing trimmings and the potential expansion of its non-O157 STEC testing to ground beef and ground beef components other than beef manufacturing trimmings. In addition, the agency was responding to comments that it had received on the previous cost-benefit analysis on this subject. The deadline for submitting comments on the analysis discussed in the notice is Jan. 20, 2015.

FSIS extended the comment period in response to a request from an industry association. The new deadline for submitting comments is Feb. 19, 2015.

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods: Federal eRulemaking Portal, available at <http://www.regulations.gov>; Mail, including CD-ROMs, etc.: Send to Docket Room Manager,

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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 view recently posted topics.

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...Comment Period Extended

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The notice is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/federal-register/federal-register-notices>.

FSIS Policy Updates

FSIS notices and directives on public health and regulatory issues are available at: <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations>. The following policy updates were recently issued:

Notice 01-15, *Interim FSIS Standard Operating Procedures for Sign Language Interpreting (SLI) Services*

Notice 02-15, *Public Health Regulations for Use in Scheduling Food Safety Assessments*

Notice 03-15, *Sampling Project Codes for the Fiscal Year 2015 National Residue Program*

Directive 1307.1, *Systems Development Life Cycle (SDLC)*

FSIS Seeks Your Feedback

FSIS wants feedback from its readers. Let us know what you like about the *Constituent Update*. Please send comments and suggestions regarding content to fsis.constituents@usda.gov.

Follow Us On Twitter

Find food safety information for at-risk people, along with tips and resources to keep consumers and other interested groups informed of the latest agency news and events. Follow FSIS on Twitter at www.twitter.com/USDAFoodSafety.

Also Tweet en Español

The FSIS Spanish language Twitter feed keeps consumers and other interested communities informed of the latest agency news and events and provides useful food safety tips.

FSIS Food Recalls and Alerts

Stay up-to-date on FSIS' food recall alerts by visiting FSIS' Current Recalls and Alerts Web page at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/recalls>.

You can also receive e-mail notifications when public health alerts and recalls are issued. Register at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>.

Check Out FSIS' FOIA Reading Room

Visit the Reading Room at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/fsis_electronic_reading_room.