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FSIS Constituent Update

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FSIS' Deputy Under Secretary Participates in Safety DataPalooza

On Friday Oct. 30, Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety Brian Ronholm spoke at the 2015 Safety DataPalooza about how FSIS' uses data to prevent foodborne illness. The Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) estimates that each year roughly 1 in 6 Americans (or 48 million people) get sick, 128,000 are hospitalized and 3,000 die of foodborne diseases.

The third annual Safety Datapalooza highlighted innovators from the private, nonprofit and academic sectors who have used freely available government data to build products, services, and applications advancing public safety in creative and powerful ways. Deputy Under Secretary Ronholm highlighted the FoodKeeper smartphone app and the Agency's efforts to modernize data collection methods.

Data from social media has the potential to limit, or even stop, outbreaks of foodborne illness. As Deputy Under Secretary Ronholm stated, "If we work together with scientists, educators, consumers, and industry, we can continue to engage consumers in a way that further protects public health."

Canada RTE Sandwich Export Verification

On November 2nd, FSIS will publish a Federal Register notice announcing and requesting comments on its plans to implement with the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) an Export Verification (EV) program for Ready-To-Eat (RTE) products destined for Canada. Under the program, sandwiches will be produced in establishments under FSIS' voluntary reimbursable inspection service, and FSIS will verify that the products are produced under a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) plan.

The program will also include testing performed by AMS, routine and intensified, to verify whether participating establishments are controlling *Listeria monocytogenes* and *Salmonella*, for which establishments would also pay a fee. This program is in response to Canada requiring that closed-faced sandwiches exported to Canada be produced under a HACCP plan.

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Export Requirement Updates



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

Cuba
Hong Kong
Iraq
Jamaica
Japan
People's Republic of China
Taiwan
Ukraine

For a complete list of countries, visit <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>.

...Canada

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The notice is on public display and available at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2015-27846.pdf>. If you have questions about the program, please contact Daniel Engeljohn, Ph.D, Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture at 202-205-0495.

FSIS is requesting comments before implementing the program with AMS. The deadline for submitting public comments on this proposed rule is Feb 2nd, 2016. Comments may be submitted by either 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 8-163A, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

FSIS Policy Updates

FSIS' notices and directives on public health and regulatory issues are available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topic/regulations>. The recent policy update was recently issued:

Notice 69-15, *Restoration of Forfeited Annual Leave*

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>.

We Want to Hear From You

The *Constituent Update* Content and Technical Review Committee seeks feedback from its readers. Please let us know what you think about the *Constituent Update* and send comments and suggestions regarding content to FSISUpdate@fsis.usda.gov. If you aren't regularly receiving the *Constituent Update*, you can sign up for it at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/newsroom/meetings/newsletters/constituent-updates>.

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