



Identifying Regulatory Reform Initiatives at USDA

On July 17, 2017, USDA published a request for information, "Identifying Regulatory Reform Initiatives," in pursuant with Executive Order 13777—Enforcing the Regulatory Reform Agenda. USDA is requesting ideas from the public on how to provide better customer service and remove unintended barriers to participation in our programs in ways that least interfere with our customers and allow us to accomplish our mission. USDA is asking for public ideas on regulations, guidance documents, or any other policy documents that are in need of reform, for example, ideas to modify, streamline, expand, or repeal those items.

Comments and information are requested on or before July 17, 2018. USDA will review comments in four batches over a one-year period. The cut-off period for comments for the second, third and fourth batches are Nov. 14, 2017, Feb.12, 2018 and July 17, 2018, respectively.

Comments can be submitted the following two ways:

- Electronic Submission of Comments: you may submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- Submission of Comments by Mail, Hand Delivery, or Courier: paper, disk, or CD-ROM submissions should be submitted to regulations@obpa.usda.gov, Office of Budget and Program Analysis, USDA, Jamie L. Whitten Building, Room 101-A, 1400 Independence Ave. SW., Washington, D.C. 20250.

For proper delivery, in your comment specify "Identifying Regulatory Reform Initiatives." For more information, please visit <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/07/17/2017-14920/identifying-regulatory-reform-initiatives>.

Update to FSIS Public Health Partners Web Page

FSIS' Office of Public Health Science has prepared, and is posting to the FSIS website, a foodborne illness investigation summary. This summary focuses on two outbreaks attributed to pork products that occurred in 2015 and 2016. FSIS plans on updating the "Resources for Public Health Partners" webpage with additional investigation summaries going forward. It is the Agency's hope that these summaries will assist public health partners, as well as industry, in understanding the FSIS foodborne illness investigation process. To view this summary, please visit <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/recalls-and-public-health-alerts/foodborne-illness-investigations/outbreaks-salmonella-pork-products-2015-2016> .

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Export Requirements Updates

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

None to Report

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

Policy Updates

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

Notice 60-17 - *Electronic Official Personnel Folder Access Procedures for Employees Without Access to a Government Computer*

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UPDATE:

FSIS Testing for *E.coli*



FSIS posts biweekly updates of the Agency's raw ground beef *E. coli* sampling program, which includes testing results of raw ground beef component samples for *E. coli* O157:H7 and Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STECs) from FSIS routine and follow-up sampling programs. Data are also presented for non-O157 STECs by each non-O157 STEC serogroup.

Between June 4, 2012 and Oct. 29, 2017, FSIS laboratory services analyzed a total of 20,664 beef trim samples (16,776 domestic and 3,888 imported), 4,386 routine follow-up samples (4,272 domestic and 114 imported), and 364 non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. Two-hundred and four samples were found to be positive; 121 were domestic trim samples, eleven were imported trim samples, 68 were domestic follow-up samples, and four were non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. To date, three samples have been positive for both O157:H7 and at least one non-O157 STEC strain, and eleven samples have been positive for two different non-O157 O-groups. To review testing results, visit the *E. coli* data tables at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/ec>.