

Food Safety Inspection Service
European Union Casing Residue Sampling Instructions

1. The FSIS Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) is responsible for collecting and securing the samples per instructions. Samples must be collected from casings eligible for export to the EU after processing. These samples will be sent to: **Eurofins Central Analytical Laboratories, 2219 Lakeshore Drive, Suite 500, New Orleans, LA 70122**, via overnight express mail in containers provided by the processing establishment, at the expense of the establishment. Sample selection and shipment of the samples cannot be delegated to plant management
2. Select 1-2 pounds of bovine, porcine or ovine casings for the sample, but no more than 5 pounds. Species need to be sampled separately.
3. FSIS Inspection Program Personnel will package to protect integrity of sample during shipping and storage. Note: Freezing of the sample is not required, however, the lab may freeze the sample; therefore, if a liquid is provided ensure there is enough headspace in the container to allow for freezing without breaking the container.
4. Shipment temperature and time do not need to be designated from the perspective of sample integrity. Note: The samples should be dry salted or brined therefore temperature is no longer a preservation factor.
5. Provide documentation to accompany sample for inputting information into the laboratory's sample request system.
 - a. Designate that the sample is for the "EU Animal Casing Monitoring Program".
 - b. Specify the species.
 - c. Specify the matrix (i.e., casings (treated with dry salt), casings (treated with brine), brine). Note: If brine is the matrix, then the brine sample must be traceable to the casings the brine is used with.
 - d. Designate where the laboratory needs to send test result report:
 - Client requesting test
 - FSIS Office of International Coordination (internationalcoordination@usda.gov),
 - FSIS Inspection Program Personnel (IPP), and
 - Laboratory Approval & Testing Division, Laboratory Approval Service (LAS@usda.gov)