

Import Presented and Refused – Data Documentation

Overview

These data are the import lots presented and refused for products regulated by FSIS. Federal law requires every commercial shipment of imported meat, poultry, and egg products to be inspected prior to product entering U.S. commerce. FSIS inspects each shipment to verify labeling, proper certification, general condition, any signs of tampering and to identify product adulterated by transportation damage. FSIS also performs additional activities on a random and/or for-cause basis such as physical product examination and laboratory sampling for pathogens and chemical residues. See the Notes and Limitations section for additional information.

Any product that does not meet FSIS requirements is refused entry, and the importer has up to 45 days (30 days for egg products) to have the product destroyed for use as human food, re-exported/returned to the foreign country, converted to animal food, or brought into compliance with FSIS requirements, if applicable (e.g., relabeled, remarked, replacement certificate). Additional information can be found on the FSIS website at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/fsis-directives/9900.8>.

Depending on the report execution date and the point of the disposition process a particular refused shipment is in, the data are subject to change. The data files will provide data starting from October 1, 2013, through the end of the previous month of the report execution date. Data files will be available for each fiscal year and updated monthly.

Each row in this data set represents one import lot received shipment and all refused shipments.

Data Dictionary

- lot_id
 - The unique identifier to distinguish each lot across data tables in the FSIS databases.
- application_number
 - The application number provided on the FSIS Form 9540-1, Import Inspection Application.
- lot_number
 - The lot number provided on the FSIS Form 9540-1, Import Inspection Application.
- country

- The name of the country that issued the inspection certificate for the imported product on the FSIS Form 9540-1, Import Inspection Application.
- received_lot_date
 - The date the FSIS inspection program personnel received the shipment information in the Public Health Information System (PHIS).
 - The value is subject to change depending on the report execution date. See the Notes and Limitations section for additional information.
 - refused_date
 - The date the FSIS inspection program personnel marked the lot as refused entry in PHIS.
 - The value is subject to change depending on the report execution date. See the Notes and Limitations section for additional information.
- disposition_date
 - The date the FSIS inspection program personnel completed the disposition of the refused lot in PHIS.
 - The value is subject to change depending on the report execution date. See the Notes and Limitations section for additional information.
- import_house
 - The official number/letter combination of the domestic official import inspection establishment where FSIS inspection program personnel performed the reinspection.
- import_house_name
 - The name of the domestic official import inspection establishment where FSIS inspection program personnel performed the reinspection.
- processing_establishment
 - The official number and/or letter combination of the foreign processing establishment written on the FSIS Form 9540-1, Import Inspection Application.
- processing_est_name
 - The name of the foreign processing establishment written on the FSIS Form 9540-1, Import Inspection Application.
- haccp_code
 - The code associated with the nine process categories used for imported products.
 - 03B = Raw – Non-Intact
 - 03C = Raw – Intact
 - 03D = Thermally Processed/Commercially Sterile
 - 03E = Not Heat Treated – Shelf Stable
 - 03F = Heat Treated – Shelf Stable
 - 03G = Fully Cooked – Not Shelf Stable
 - 03H = Heat Treated – Not Fully Cooked – Not Shelf Stable
 - 03I = Product with Secondary Inhibitors – Not Shelf Stable
 - EGG = Eggs/Egg Products
- process_category
 - For imported product, process categories are used as high-level groupings that identify whether and how products are further processed after the slaughter operation.

- product_category
 - Further describes process category to include species name.
- product_group
 - Defines the product down to a level that FSIS can program appropriate types of inspections (TOI) for examinations and laboratory sampling.
- species
 - The name of the predominant slaughter class in the product.
 - Beef
 - Veal
 - Goat
 - Lamb
 - Mutton
 - Pork
 - Chicken
 - Duck
 - Goose
 - Guinea
 - Squab
 - Turkey
 - Emu
 - Ostrich
 - Rhea
 - Siluriformes – Other (See Notes and Limitations section.)
 - Siluriformes – Ictaluridae (See Notes and Limitations section.)
- total_weight_presented
 - The total weight presented for reinspection at the official import establishment declared in pounds.
- final_weight_refused
 - The net weight of lot in pounds that is refused entry.
 - The value is subject to change depending on the report execution date. Please see the Notes and Limitations section.

Relationship to Other Data

This data can be combined with other FSIS datasets using the lot_id variable.

Notes and Limitations

This dataset is in response to the demand for easier access to information that is frequently requested under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Domestic establishment datasets are available on the FSIS website. Please visit the FSIS website for more information on available datasets.

(<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/science-data/data-sets-visualizations>)

During the transition period (March 1, 2016 – August 31, 2017), FSIS selected a subset of imported shipments of Siluriformes fish products for reinspection based on specific targeting criteria including past compliance history provided by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Information about FSIS Product Categorization can be found on the FSIS website at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/guidelines/2019-0010>.

received_lot_date data is as of the report execution date. This data is subject to change whenever a FSIS inspector re-receives the lot. This may occur if the inspector re-opens the application. The received lot date may be blank if the inspector never receives the lot in PHIS. This may occur if the inspector refuses the lot and does not receive the lot in PHIS.

The data associated with the following variables: refused_date, disposition_date, and final_weight_refused, is as of the report execution date. This data is subject to change due to the time period for disposition. Information about refused entry and time period for disposition can be found on the FSIS website.

(<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/fsis-directives/9900.8>)

A final_weight_refused value of 0 indicates that the entire amount of initially refused product was rectified.

NULL values indicate that the specific variable is not available for that record.

Prior Analysis

These data provide a variety of variables that can be used in analysis; however, this dataset, as a whole, has not been previously used for analysis.