

Import Refused Reason – Data Documentation

Overview

These data are the import refused reasons 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 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 refusal reason in the Public Health Information System (PHIS).

Data Dictionary

- lot_id
 - The unique identifier to distinguish each lot across data tables in the FSIS databases.
- refusal_create_date
 - The date the refusal reason was created in PHIS.
- refusal_reason
 - The reason for refusal.
- defect_description
 - Information to further describe the refusal reason.
- failed_toi
 - The name of the failed Type of Inspection (TOI).
- refused_weight
 - The amount of product implicated in the refusal reason declared in pounds.

- rectify_status
 - The status of the refused product.

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>.

The data associated with the status of the refused products (rectify_status) 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>)

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.