



## Allergen Public Meeting

FSIS—with participation from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), international partners and academic institutions—is hosting a public meeting to discuss the prevention and control of undeclared allergens in FSIS-regulated products. The meeting will address, specifically, the continued occurrence of product recalls due to undeclared allergens and the best practices for prevention and control of allergens as a public health threat in FSIS-regulated establishments. Topics will focus on FSIS action and enforcement of undeclared allergens, labeling compliance, prevention and emerging issues. Industry and interested individuals, organizations and other stakeholders are invited to participate in the meeting and comment on these topics.

The meeting will take place in Washington, D.C. on March 16, 2017 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Auditorium in the South Building, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 14<sup>th</sup> & Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250.

To attend, please register by emailing [AllergenPublicMeeting@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:AllergenPublicMeeting@fsis.usda.gov) by March 9, 2017.

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### Export Requirements Updates

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

- Kuwait
- Netherlands

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 12-17** - *Responding to Overtime Requests*
- Notice 13-17** - *Fiscal Year 2017 Equal Employment Opportunity Policy Statements*
- Notice 14-17** - *Analysis for Salmonella of All Imported Beef Products Sampled for Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia Coli (STEC)*
- Notice 15-17** - *Cancellation of FSIS Notice 53-16, Protecting FSIS Inspection Program Personnel from Mosquito Bites*
- Docket No. FSIS-2014-0024** - *Revision of the Nutrition Facts Labels for Meat and Poultry; Products and Updating Certain Reference Amounts Customarily Consumed; Extension of Comment Period*
- Docket No. FSIS-2017-0004** - *Meeting of the Codex Committee on Contaminants in Food*

# 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 similar outbreaks attributed to stuffed chicken products that occurred in the summer/fall of 2015. 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/ffsis/topics/recalls-and-public-health-alerts/foodborne-illness-investigations>.

## 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 Feb. 19, 2017, FSIS laboratory services analyzed a total of 16,705 beef trim samples (14,338 domestic and 2,367 imported), 3,848 routine follow-up samples (3,734 domestic and 114 imported) and 327 non-routine follow-up/traceback samples. One-hundred eighty-two samples were found to be positive; 109 were domestic trim samples, six were imported trim samples, 63 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 ten 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/ffsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/ec>

## Get Answers at AskFSIS

AskFSIS is a web-based technology and policy question-and-answer forum on topics such as exporting, labeling, inspection, programs and procedures. In addition, AskFSIS offers Really Simple Syndication (RSS) feeds that link back to the Q&As.

This week, FSIS posted a new Q&A about the Eligibility of Veal Product Imported from the Netherlands at [https://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a\\_id/2009](https://askfsis.custhelp.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/2009). Also, to view recently posted topics, please visit <http://askfsis.custhelp.com/>.

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## Food Recalls and Alerts

For information regarding recalls, please contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Staff at (202) 720-9113. You can also receive e-mail notifications when public health alerts and recalls are issued by registering at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/subscribe>.