

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

27-19

8/22/19

CHANGES TO VERIFICATION AND EXPLORATORY POULTRY SAMPLING PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

This notice is to inform inspection program personnel (IPP) of changes in poultry sampling. First, FSIS is increasing the number of sampling tasks at certain establishments producing chicken parts, chicken carcasses, or turkey carcasses that are subject to the *Salmonella* performance standards. In addition, FSIS has canceled all sampling for the low volume poultry products and religious exempt chicken carcasses.

II. VERIFICATION SAMPLE SCHEDULING PROCEDURE FOR RAW POULTRY PRODUCTS

A. Beginning in August 2019, at establishments producing chicken parts, chicken carcasses, or turkey carcasses, FSIS will schedule two (2) samples per month for eligible establishments producing 1,001 to 250,000 pounds of product (chicken or turkey carcasses, or chicken parts) per day, and five (5) samples per month to those eligible establishments producing greater than 250,000 pounds of product per day. With these scheduling changes, more sample assignments will be received for some establishments than had been received in the past.

B. These changes will ensure that establishments producing greater than 1,000 pounds of eligible product per day are consistently categorized and improve FSIS' ability to assess whether establishments maintain process control.

III. SUSPENSION OF FSIS SAMPLING CODES

A. The Agency began collecting samples from religious exempt chicken carcasses and poultry products produced in low volume in June 2017, under FSIS Notice 27-17, *Religious Exempt and Very Low Volume Raw Poultry Exploratory Sampling*. FSIS has collected sufficient data to make a determination that it no longer needs to collect samples of these products. The agency does not intend to propose performance standards for these products at this time. The agency intends to communicate the results from these sampling projects on the FSIS website and will announce the availability of the results in a future FSIS *Constituent Update*.

B. Effective immediately, IPP will no longer receive sampling tasks for the project codes listed below.

Sampling Project	Product Group	Project Code
Religious Exempt	Chicken carcasses	RE_CH_CARC01
Very Low Volume	Chicken carcasses	LO_CH_CARC01
Very Low Volume	Turkey carcasses	LO_TU_CARC01
Very Low Volume	Parts from chickens (legs, breasts, wings)	LO_CPT_LBW01

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

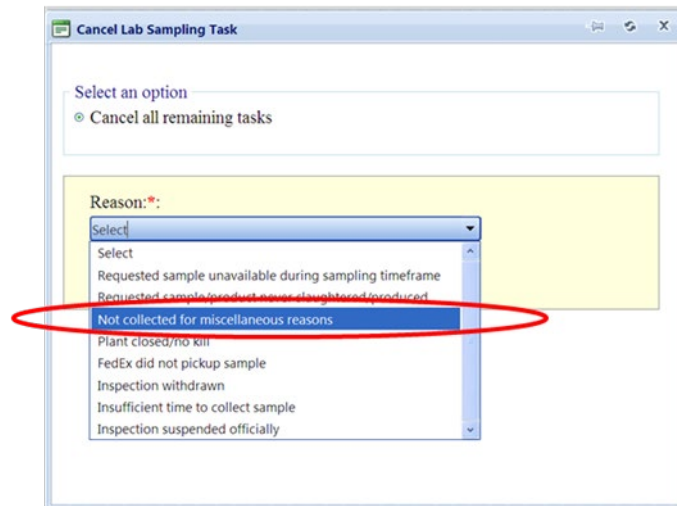
NOTICE EXPIRES: 9/1/20

OPI: OPPD

Very Low Volume	Other parts from chickens (neck, liver, heart, gizzards)	LO_CPT_OT01
Very Low Volume	Other parts from chickens (quarters and halves)	LO_CPT_QH01
Very Low Volume	Comminuted chicken products	LO_CH_COM01
Very Low Volume	Comminuted turkey products	LO_TU_COM01
Very Low Volume	Mechanically separated chicken products	LO_CH_MSK01
Very Low Volume	Mechanically separated turkey products	LO_TU_MSK01

C. The Office of Planning, Analysis and Risk Management (OPARM) has removed sampling tasks for the above codes that were assigned for the month of August.

D. Upon issuance of this notice, IPP are to cancel any remaining sampling tasks for the above codes, selecting “Not collected for miscellaneous reasons” as the reason for the cancellation.



IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#), or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, use the **Submit a Question** tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

- Subject Field: Enter the **Notice 27-19**.
- Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible.
- Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.
- Category Field: Select **Sampling-General** from the drop down menu.
- Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, press the **Submit** button.

NOTE: Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1](#), *Using askFSIS*, for additional information on submitting questions.

Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development