

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

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# FSIS NOTICE

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24-19

7/18/19

## FSIS RESIDUE SAMPLING OF DOMESTIC EGG PRODUCTS

**NOTE: DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS NOTICE UNTIL AUGUST 19, 2019**

### I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) for the sampling of liquid and dried egg products for chemical residue testing. IPP are only to collect these samples at domestic egg products plants that break eggs.

### II. BACKGROUND

FSIS initiated egg product chemical residue sampling in imported products during Fiscal Year 2018 under the United States National Residue Program (NRP). FSIS will start collecting liquid and dried egg products (unpasteurized and pasteurized) for chemical residue testing in domestic egg products plants. Sample collection will be assigned through the Public Health Information System (PHIS) as a directed task. Information on egg product residue analyses and the annual sampling plan is provided in the [FSIS Annual Residue Sampling Plan](#) (previously known as the “Blue Book”). FSIS recommends that egg products plants hold or maintain control of lots of egg products represented by the samples until all FSIS sample results are found to be acceptable, but FSIS does not require that plants hold or control these products pending the receipt of residue test results.

### III. REFERENCES AND REVIEW OF MATERIALS

IPP assigned to egg products plants are to be familiar with the following FSIS issuances and the information provided in this notice:

1. [FSIS Directive 13000.2](#), *Performing Sampling Tasks in Official Establishments Using the Public Health Information System*; and
2. [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#), *Use of Sample Seals for Laboratory Samples and Other Applications*.

### IV. SAMPLE TASK ASSIGNMENT

A. Notification of sampling requests will appear as alerts through PHIS. The samples will appear as directed tasks on the establishment task list as an **NRP\_EG** sampling task code.

B. IPP are to refer to [FSIS Directive 13000.2](#) for instructions on how to add the task to the task calendar, enter the sample information into PHIS, submit the sample information to the lab, and print a finalized sample collection form from PHIS.

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 8/1/20

**OPI:** OPPD

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C. The IPP have 30 days from the date of the sample request (sample collection window) to collect the sample and submit it to the FSIS laboratory. IPP are to cancel the task on the task calendar if it cannot be completed within the sample collection window.

## V. SAMPLE SUPPLIES FOR EGG PRODUCT RESIDUE SAMPLING

A. Supplies for sampling are not sent automatically. IPP are to request sampling supplies at least three business days before sampling is to begin. IPP are to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#) for ordering sampling supplies through PHIS. IPP may also submit requests for sampling supplies to the Western Laboratory (WL) via e-mail using the following e-mail address:

[FSIS - Sampling Supplies - Western Lab](#)

To request sampling supplies by e-mail, IPP are to enter “Egg Products Sampling Supplies” in the email subject heading and, in the email body, include the plant name and number, the project code (NRP\_EG), and the IPP contact name and telephone number.

B. IPP are to note that the sampling supplies do not include a sterile scoop or ladle. If a scoop (for dry egg products) or ladle (for collection where a valve is not present) is required for aseptic sample collection, IPP are to request the scoop or ladle when they request the sampling supplies from the laboratory as described in Section V.A. of this notice. The request for a scoop or ladle can be included in the comment section of the dialog box when using PHIS, or in the body of the email when using the laboratory mailing list.

C. The shipping container will include the following supplies:

1. Pairs of gloves (2);
2. 120-ml sterile plastic sample jar with screw cap (2);
3. 1-gallon zipper lock bag (1);
4. Plastic sleeve or zipper lock bag for sample form (FSIS form 8000-18) (1);
5. FSIS Laboratory Sample Container Seal (FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B) (1);
6. Absorbent pad (1);
7. Gel coolant pack (1 or more);
8. Cardboard separator (1);
9. FedEx (pre-printed) billable stamp for the WL (1); and
10. When requested, a scoop or ladle.



D. If any of the sampling supplies are missing from the shipping container or are damaged, IPP are to contact the WL using the instructions provided in Section V.A. of this notice and request replacements.

E. If collecting liquid egg products, IPP are to place the gel packs and shipping container in the freezer for a minimum of 12 hours prior to sample collection. If collecting dried egg products, IPP are to place the shipping container and supplies in a dry location at room temperature.

## **VI. SAMPLE SELECTION AND SAMPLE COLLECTION**

A. IPP are to collect samples for residue testing of liquid or dried egg products, including whole eggs, egg whites, or egg yolks, produced in egg products plants where eggs are broken.

**NOTE:** Egg products produced from eggs previously broken at another plant are not eligible for residue sampling.

B. Before collecting a sample, IPP are to officially notify the plant management that they will be collecting a sample and explain the reason that they are collecting the sample (residue sampling). Prior to initiating each sample task in egg plants (that break eggs) for residue testing, IPP are to:

1. Discuss the plant's lotting procedures for the production of egg products and determine the amount of notice the plant will need prior to collecting these samples. Generally, IPP are to provide one (1) days' notice prior to collecting these samples. IPP may provide two (2) days' notice if necessary;

**NOTE:** FSIS considers the sampled lot to represent all products originating from the same poultry farm. In general, poultry management practices result in the entire flock being treated at the same time rather than individually. Therefore, an entire flock would be exposed to the same residues. Most plants will combine eggs from multiple poultry farms into a single production run. In this case, all of the poultry farms represented in the sampled lot would be implicated unless the plant provides justification for the exclusion of certain farms.

2. Discuss where IPP can store the collected sample until FedEx picks up the sample; and
3. Inform plant management that while FSIS recommends the plant hold or maintain control of the lot(s) of egg products represented by the samples until all FSIS sample results are found to be acceptable, holding or maintaining control of the lot(s) is **not required**.

C. IPP are to select samples from product that are reflective of only the eggs broken at that plant. This may include unpasteurized or pasteurized egg product. In plants that combine eggs broken at that plant and eggs broken at another plant before pasteurization, IPP are to collect the sample from the collection pot in the breaking room. This will ensure the collected sample is representative of only the eggs broken in that plant.

**NOTE:** IPP are not to collect samples from tankers. The plant employee will always collect the sample from tankers under the observation of IPP.

D. IPP are to collect the sample aseptically. Instructions on performing aseptic sampling are provided on [IPP Help](#) under the aseptic sampling tab.

E. For liquid egg products, IPP are to:

1. Fill two sample jars to the top with liquid egg product (approximately 100 mL in each sample jar for a total of 200 mL);
2. Place the two sample jars into the non-sterile secondary zipper-lock bag; and

3. Refrigerate the samples in a secured location until they are ready to be shipped. Do not freeze the samples.

F. For dried egg products, IPP are to:

1. Fill two sample jars to the top with dried egg product (approximately 100 grams in each sample jar for a total of 200 grams);
2. Place the sample jars into the non-sterile secondary zipper-lock bag; and
3. Store the samples at room temperature in a secured, dry location until the sample is ready to be shipped. Do not refrigerate or freeze the samples.

## VII. HOW TO COMPLETE THE SAMPLING TASK AND SHIP THE SAMPLE

A. IPP are to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#) for completing sampling tasks in PHIS and [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#) on the use of sample seals (FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B) to maintain sample security and identification.

B. To pack the shipping container, IPP are to:

1. Retrieve the shipping container (pre-chilled for submitting liquid egg products);
2. If submitting liquid egg products, retrieve the frozen gel coolant packs from the freezer;

**NOTE:** For dried samples, a gel coolant pack and cardboard separator are not to be used for sample packing and shipment since these samples are to be maintained at room temperature.

3. Retrieve the samples from the secured location and apply the sample seals on the sample jars as described in [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#);
4. Print off the sample form from PHIS and sign and date the sample form;
5. Place the absorbent pad on the bottom of the shipping container and, if shipping liquid samples, place the frozen gel coolant pack in the bottom or on one of the sides of the shipping container;
6. Place the sample (in the zipper-lock bag) upright inside the shipping container with the cardboard separator separating the sample from the cold pack if shipping liquid egg products;
7. Review the information on the pre-printed FedEx billable stamps provided with the sampling supplies and select the air bill with the laboratory name and address that corresponds to the FSIS laboratory name and address printed on the FSIS sample form (FSIS Form 8000-18) to ensure delivery of the sample to the correct FSIS laboratory. Enter the return address information on the FedEx billable stamps;
8. Place the completed, signed, and dated sample form in the plastic sleeve provided. Place the completed sample form and any unused sample seals in the shipping container;



9. Press the foam plug down upon the upright sample container (lid on top) as tight as possible. If the shipping container does not have a foam plug, place the insulated lid on the container. Do not overfill the shipping container;

**NOTE:** Do not tape or wrap the samples or use any newspaper or similar material as packing material. Use of such materials may result in a sample discard by the laboratory.



10. Apply the FSIS Laboratory Sample Container Seal (FSIS Form 7355-2A) to the inner flap of the shipping container as described in [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#). IPP are to close the box flaps so that the container closure system is secure. IPP are not to tape the box if there are tapeless closures;
11. Affix the FedEx billable stamp on the shipping container and remove any old stamp receipts and carrier shipping bar codes from the container; and
12. Ensure that the samples collected remain under FSIS control prior to pick-up by FedEx.

C. IPP are to ship samples on the day of collection or the next day, but are not to ship samples on a Saturday, or the day before a federal holiday.

D. IPP are to return any unused shipping containers and sampling supplies after the sampling window closes, including the FedEx billable stamp, to the FSIS Laboratory that provided the IPP with these materials. IPP are to send a request to the WL for a pre-addressed return FedEx ground-shipping bill, using the e-mail address provided in Section V.A. of this notice.

## VIII. SAMPLE RESULTS REPORTING AND FSIS ACTIONS

A. Sample results will be reported in PHIS. IPP are to review the test results and inform the plant of the results upon receipt. IPP are to make a final disposition on the sampled product lot, if held by the plant, and take any necessary regulatory action.

B. For residue test results reported as “Not Detected” or “Detected – non-violative,” IPP are to inform the plant that the test result is “in compliance.”

C. When FSIS sampling identifies an egg product lot as “Detected – Violative” or “Detected but not Quantified, Violation” for residues, IPP are to:

1. Retain the product using the “U.S. Rejected/Retained” tag until the plant destroys the product for residue violation ([9 CFR 590.426](#)), if the product is in the plant or under the plant’s control;
2. Review the cause of the violation with the plant’s management and discuss any potential cause in detail;
3. Issue a noncompliance record (NR) citing [9 CFR 590.5](#) – Adulterated – under the appropriate Egg Products Food Safety task for the product sampled;
4. In the NR, IPP are to include details on:
  - a. The affected product type, lot number, and quantity of containers in the affected lots; and

b. The retention tag number of the affected product.

C. If the product sampled is violative and is no longer under plant control, IPP are to immediately notify their supervisor. The supervisor will notify the District Office.

## IX. 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 24-19**.

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