



FSIS Posts Aggregate Results for Chicken Parts, Comminuted Poultry and Poultry Carcasses Tested for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*

Today, FSIS updated the publicly posted aggregate sampling results (not individual establishments) relative to process control categories for establishments producing young chicken or turkey carcasses, raw chicken parts or Not Ready-To-Eat (NRTE) comminuted poultry products. The information is available at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/salmonella-verification-testing-program/salmonella-verification-testing-program>.

FSIS intends to resume individual establishment category web posting once it has initiated follow-up sampling for establishments that are in category three to help assess establishment corrective actions. FSIS will be regularly assessing the aggregate data to determine if the follow-up sampling is working effectively.

In This Issue

- 1 FSIS Posts Aggregate Results for Chicken Parts, Comminuted Poultry and Poultry Carcasses Tested for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter*
- 1 Policy Updates
- 1 Export Requirements Updates
- 2 FSIS Posts New Dataset on Rejection of Import Shipments
- 2 Preventing Undeclared Allergens: A Strategic Approach to Reducing Recalls
- 3 FSIS to Host a Session at USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum
- 3 Food Recalls and Alerts

Export Requirements Updates

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

- Brazil
- Canada
- Kuwait
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- South Africa
- Turkey

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 09-17** - *Mandatory Equal Employment Opportunity and Civil Rights Training for all FSIS Employees*
- Notice 10-17** - *Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit Responsibilities Related to Siluriformes Fish and Fish Products*
- Notice 11-17** - *Inspection Responsibilities and Authorities for Reducing Slaughter or Evisceration Line Speed in Poultry Slaughter Establishments not Operating Under the New Poultry Inspection System*
- Directive 5100.3** - *Administrative Enforcement Action Decision-Making and Methodology*
- Directive 10310.1** - *Pilot Project, Control of Listeria Monocytogenes In Retail Delicatessens*
- Docket No. FSIS-2017-0001** - *Notice of Request for Revision of an Approved Information Collection (Advanced Meat Recovery)*
- Docket No. FSIS-2017-0002** - *Notice of Request for Revision of a Currently Approved Information Collection (Nutrition Labeling, Major Cuts of Single-Ingredient Raw Meat, Poultry...)*
- Docket No. FSIS-2017-0005** - *Preventing Undeclared Allergens, A Strategic Approach To Reducing Recalls*

FSIS Posts New Dataset on Rejections of Import Shipments

FSIS is publishing a new dataset on import refusals 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.

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).

This dataset contains each shipment with product that was refused entry. The dataset and corresponding data dictionary can be found on the FSIS website at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/ffsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/data>. Going forward, the dataset will be updated approximately the 15th of each month and include the last three months of data.

Preventing Undeclared Allergens: A Strategic Approach to Reducing Recalls

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. Specifically, the meeting will address 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, 14th & Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20250.

To attend, please register by emailing AllergenPublicMeeting@fsis.usda.gov by March 9, 2017.

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FSIS to Host a Session at USDA's Agricultural Outlook Forum

Each February, USDA holds the annual Agricultural Outlook Forum, a widely-attended event where USDA offices and agencies, including FSIS, host panel discussions and presentations on current agricultural topics.

This year's Forum will take place Feb. 23-24 at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Arlington, Va., just outside of Washington, D.C. Typical attendees of the public forum include scientists, government employees, people from major agricultural firms, agriculture trade associations, agriculture-oriented media outlets and non-profit groups such as consumer and environmental organizations. USDA has made an effort in recent years to encourage attendance by students, farmers and ranchers.

FSIS Administrator and Acting Deputy Under Secretary, Al Almanza, will be moderating the FSIS session on the topic "The Role of Data in Food Safety." With increasing amounts of data available, regulators, industry and academia have a wealth of information to inform decision-making and policy. Data analyses may motivate establishments to improve performance and can highlight strengths and weaknesses, which may lead to improved food safety practices.

The FSIS session will be held on Feb. 23 as part of the "Agriculture for the Future" track. For the benefit of those who cannot attend, the presentation slides will be posted online soon after the forum. For more information about the Ag Outlook Forum, please visit <https://www.usda.gov/oce/forum/>.

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>.