



FSIS Adjusts Inspection Coverage at Official Establishments That Slaughter Fish of the Order Siluriformes

Today, FSIS published in a *Federal Register* notice that it is adjusting inspection coverage at official establishments that slaughter fish of the order Siluriformes from all hours of operation to once per production shift. This decision was based on the Agency's experience inspecting official fish slaughter establishments since implementing the mandatory inspection program on March 1, 2016. FSIS found that the typical fish slaughter operation is a streamlined, automated process that combines slaughter with processing in the same continuous operation, more like meat processing-only operations than like slaughter operations. The *Federal Register* notice also shows responses to comments received on the May 17, 2017 *Federal Register* document that announced these changes. For more information, visit: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/wcm/connect/da93575c-a533-4065-83ed-c75628f1a6f8/2017-0003-090117.htm?MOD=AJPERES>.

FSIS Announces Plan for Industry Testing of PHIS Export Component

FSIS is announcing its plan to provide industry access to the Public Health Information System (PHIS) Export Component (Export) for testing purposes. FSIS is providing access to the Export functionality to ensure industry has sufficient testing and development time prior to PHIS Export implementation. Beginning on June 29, 2018, FSIS intends to provide automated export documentation to Afghanistan, Andorra, Australia, Bahamas, Bolivia, Burundi, Cape Verde, Cook Islands, Ethiopia, Gambia, Guinea, Liberia, Mozambique, New Zealand, Paraguay, San Marino, Tanzania, Uganda, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

This upcoming first phase of testing will only test the batching function and will only apply to establishments that export to one or more of the 19 countries mentioned above, and only to these 19 countries. A PHIS Export environment will be available for industry testing of computer-to-computer processing of XML batch files and upload of XML batch files while logged into PHIS as an Export Applicant or Export Broker. Industry members can test computer-to-computer file submission during this first phase. Industry members can also test XML upload at the user interface during phase two of testing, which will happen at a later date.

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As announced on July 6, 2017, FSIS has scheduled a conference call to share how and when FSIS will make the test site available for testing. This conference call will take place on Sept. 12, 2017, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET. The conference call phone number is toll-free 1-877-369-5243 or 1-617-668-3633 and the access code is 0598769#. During the call, FSIS will share information about batch file submissions of export applications, instructional guides, and test scripts. Questions will also be addressed during this time.

USDA Integrates Recalls Information into 'FoodKeeper' Application

On Aug. 29, 2017, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced new updates to its popular FoodKeeper application that will provide users with new information on food safety recalls. The app has been updated so users can choose to receive automatic notifications when food safety recalls are announced by FSIS and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

In the update posted to the Google Play and iTunes stores, users can select to receive information on food safety recalls immediately when they're announced or select to receive them daily or weekly. The update also adds instructional videos on proper handling and storage of food, and expands the list of food and beverage products from about 400 to more than 500 items.

The FoodKeeper app was developed by FSIS in partnership with Cornell University and the Food Marketing Institute, as a tool to help reduce food waste and improve public health by sharing storage methods that extend the shelf life of the foods and beverages in American homes. It offers specific storage timelines for the refrigerator, freezer, and pantry for more than 500 products, including various types of baby food, dairy products and eggs, meat, poultry, produce, seafood, and more. Since it was launched in April 2015, the app has been downloaded nearly 150,000 times.

With the FoodKeeper application, each user can:

- Find specific storage timelines for the refrigerator, freezer, and pantry, depending on the nature of the product;
- Learn cooking tips and methods for various types of meat, poultry, and seafood products;
- Note in their device's calendar when products were purchased and receive notifications when they are nearing the end of their recommended storage date;
- Submit a question to USDA using the 'Ask Karen' feature of the application. 'Ask Karen' is USDA's 24/7 virtual representative. The system provides information about preventing foodborne illness, safe food handling and storage, and safe preparation of meat, poultry and egg products; and
- Receive information on food safety recalls immediately when they're announced or select to receive them daily or weekly.

For those that do not have access to a smartphone, the FoodKeeper app can also be accessed at <https://www.foodsafety.gov/keep/foodkeeperappl/>. For more information, please visit: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases>.

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Staff, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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Import Guidance Comment Deadline is Approaching

FSIS is reminding stakeholders that the deadline to comment on guidance for importing meat, poultry, and egg products into the United States is Sept. 5, 2017. The guidance can be found at <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FSIS-2017-0020-0001>. FSIS intends for this guidance to help U.S. importers, customs brokers, official import inspection establishments, egg products plants, and other interested persons understand and comply with FSIS import requirements. The guidance represents current FSIS thinking, and FSIS will update it as necessary to reflect comments received and any additional information that becomes available. Interested persons should submit comments no later than Sept. 5, 2017.

Comments may be submitted by one of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: This website provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this webpage or attach a file for lengthier comments. Please go to <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.
- Mail, CD-ROMs: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Patriots Plaza III, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mailstop 3782, Room 8-163B, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700.
- Hand or courier-delivered submittals may be delivered to Patriots Plaza III, 355 E Street SW, Room 8-163A, Washington, D.C. 20250-3700.

All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS-2017-0020. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

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 update was recently issued:

Docket No. FSIS-2016-0042 - *Reopening of Nomination Period for Membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods*

On Dec. 7, 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced in a *Federal Register* notice that it was soliciting nominations for membership on the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) to fill 15 vacancies. The closing date for nominations was Jan. 6, 2017. This notice reopens the nomination period for 30 days. Since the original announcement was made, two additional members have left the committee. The USDA is seeking nominations to fill these 17 vacancies. Nominations submitted during the original submission period do not need to be resubmitted.

Export Requirements Updates

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

Chile
Ecuador
Germany
Hong Kong
Republic of Korea
United Arab Emirates

For a complete list of countries, visit <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>.