

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

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# FSIS NOTICE

58-18

10/26/18

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## DISCONTINUATION OF RESIDUE TESTING OF SILURIFORMES FISH AT FURTHER PROCESSING ESTABLISHMENTS

### I. PURPOSE

This notice provides updated instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) in official domestic establishments that process Siluriformes fish (hereafter referred to as “fish”) on how to complete the Public Health Information System (PHIS) sampling task questionnaire associated with the residue testing of fish (RES\_FI) task. FSIS will discontinue chemical residue testing of products made from fish previously inspected by FSIS at a different official establishment. FSIS will continue to perform species testing under the RES\_FI project in all official establishments that process fish. There is no change to the sample collection instructions.

### II. BACKGROUND

A. The Final Rule that established the fish inspection program published on December 2, 2015 and became effective on March 1, 2016. FSIS provided an 18-month transitional period, until September 1, 2017, to give affected entities the opportunity to bring their operations into full compliance with the new regulations. Since September 2, 2017, FSIS has conducted chemical residue sampling for domestic fish products at two points in the production chain: (1) at official establishments where raw fish are first presented for FSIS inspection and (2) at official establishments that receive inspected and passed fish or fish products to be further processed.

B. This sampling at the official establishments that receive inspected and passed fish or fish products for further processed is not consistent with the design of the U.S. National Residue Program (NRP). The random sampling component of FSIS’ NRP is designed to conduct tissue sampling randomly from animals that have passed ante-mortem inspection at the slaughter establishment. This is equivalent to the “primary processors” of fish described above. This inconsistent approach has resulted in a significantly higher residue sampling frequency for fish compared to the other regulated commodities that fall under the NRP. Through the instructions in this notice, FSIS is aligning its fish chemical residue sampling plan with the existing NRP sampling plan.

C. For establishments that process fish, a “primary processor” refers to an official establishment that produces products made from fish NOT previously inspected by FSIS. A “secondary processor” refers to an official establishment that produces products made from fish previously inspected by FSIS at a different official establishment. An establishment may be both a primary and secondary processor.

**NOTE:** These instructions do not apply to the sampling of fish at imports.

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 11/1/19

**OPI:** OPPD

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### III. IPP RESPONSIBILITIES

A. IPP are to continue to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 14010.1](#), *Speciation, Residue and Salmonella Testing for Fish of the Order Siluriformes from Domestic Establishments*, for scheduling, collecting and submitting EXP\_FI\_MIC01 (*Salmonella* testing - microbiological analysis) and RES\_FI (residue and species testing – chemical analyses) samples to the FSIS Laboratory and for completing the electronic record in PHIS.

B. On the scheduled sample collection day, IPP are to complete the PHIS documentation for the EXP\_FI\_MIC01 and RES\_FI tasks, including the sampling questionnaire. The questionnaire has been updated to include the following additional questions about the source of the sampled fish:

1. (Select one) The establishment conducts fish processing as a:
  - a. Primary processor
  - b. Secondary processor
  - c. Both a primary and secondary processor
  
2. (Select one) Does the sample collected represent product inspected by FSIS for the first time? (Note: If at the point of sample collection, the establishment's process results in the commingling of both fish inspected for the first time and fish previously inspected and passed at another official establishment, IPP should select "No")
  - a. Yes
  - b. No

C. Upon receipt of the sample, the FSIS Laboratory will review the sampling forms and the responses to the questionnaire to verify the establishment's eligibility for chemical residue testing. In situations where residue testing will not be performed, the FSIS Laboratory will analyze the sample received under the RES\_FI project code for speciation only.

### IV. QUESTIONS

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

- Subject Field: Enter **Notice 58-18**  
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 **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

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



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