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

FSIS NOTICE

26-17 | 5/12/17

SAMPLING IMPORTED BRAZILIAN RAW BEEF PRODUCT ASSIGNED AN *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TYPE OF INSPECTION AT AN INCREASED LEVEL OF REINSPECTION

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) at official import inspection establishments on sampling of Brazilian raw beef product when an *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 type of inspection (TOI) is assigned at an Increased Level of Reinspection (LOR).

NOTE: For the purposes of this notice, when the notice references "raw beef," it includes veal.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Effective March 18, 2017, FSIS instituted 100% point-of-entry reinspection of all Brazilian meat products imported into the United States. This Increased LOR includes conducting product examination on 100% of the lots, condition of container examination of 100% of thermally processed products, and 100% testing of ready-to-eat products for *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. This re-inspection also includes testing 100% of beef trimmings from Brazil for *Salmonella*, *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7 and non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing *E. coli* (STEC).

NOTE: Brazil is not eligible to ship components (e.g., head meat, cheek meat, hearts) so such components are not included in the list for increased testing. If such products are imported they will be refused entry without inspection.

B. The purpose of this targeted verification testing of shipments of Brazilian raw and processed beef products is for FSIS to verify that Brazil's raw and processed beef products inspection systems are adequately addressing these pathogens. For this reason, FSIS will also sample Brazilian product certified under the product groups Carcass, Primals and Subprimals, and Cuts as part of this targeted verification testing. FSIS will analyze these samples for *Salmonella* and STEC.

III. SAMPLING

When the Public Health Information System (PHIS) assigns a TOI for *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 at an Increased LOR, the TOI will be assigned to the product groups identified in Table 2, *FSIS's Sampling Programs for Imported Products at Increased LOR for E. coli O157:H7 MT51 TOI.* If the TOI is not automatically assigned, IPP are to add the TOI as an unscheduled TOI and notify the Recall Management and Technical Analysis Division (RMTAD) Import Operations within the Office of Field Operations (OFO) immediately at foimports@fsis.usda.gov.

B. IPP are to follow the procedures in *FSIS Directive 9900.6, Laboratory Sampling Program for Imported Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products*, for ordering supplies, submitting samples, and interpreting results in PHIS.

C. IPP are not to mark the TOI as "not performed" on any product assigned a TOI for *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 at an Increased LOR regardless of whether the lot fails other TOIs.

D. IPP are to use the sampling methods provided in *FSIS Directive 10,010.1, Sampling Verification Activities for Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) in Raw Beef Products*, Chapter V to sample for boneless manufacturing trimmings.

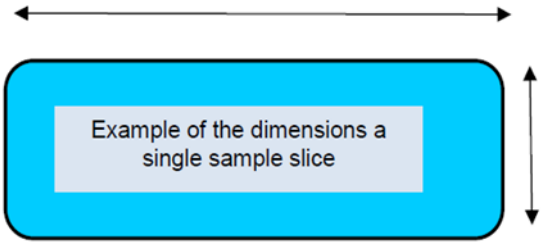
E. For primal and subprimal cuts that are not individually vacuum packaged, IPP are to use the N60 sampling method provided in FSIS Directive 10,010.1, Chapter V.

F. For individually vacuum packaged primal and subprimal cuts in containers, IPP are to:

1. Randomly select five containers from the same production lot/date if the import lot consists of more than five containers, and remove one individually vacuum packaged primal or subprimal cut from each container for sampling;

2. Select all containers if the lot consists of five containers or less and randomly select five individually vacuum packaged primal or subprimal cuts from the available containers. IPP are to ensure that all sample cartons are from the same production lot/date;

3. Remove the five selected primal or subprimal cuts from their packaging and aseptically take 12 sample slices from each of the five selected primal or subprimal cuts to obtain a total of 60 sample slices. The sample slice should be about 3 inches long by 1 inch wide and 1/8th inch thick, as shown below; and



4. If there are five or fewer primal or subprimal cuts in the lot, IPP are to refer to Table 1, *Number of Sample Slices to Collect per Primal or Subprimal Cut*, to determine the number of sample slices to collect from each primal or subprimal cut.

Table 1. Number of Sample Slices to Collect per Primal or Subprimal Cut

# of Primal or Subprimal Cuts in Each Specific Lot	# of Sample Slices to Collect from Each Primal or Subprimal Cut
5	12 sample slices
4	15 sample slices
3	20 sample slices
2	30 sample slices
1	60 sample slices

G. When completing the laboratory form in PHIS, IPP are to select the appropriate analyses based on the information provided in Table 2, *FSIS's Sampling Programs for Imported Products at Increased LOR for E. coli O157:H7 MT51 TOI.*

Table 2. FSIS's Sampling Programs for Imported Products at Increased LOR for *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TOI

TOI	Product Group	Analyzed for
***E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 Increased LOR**	Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings, Primals and Subprimals, Carcass (Including Carcass Halves or Quarters), Cuts	*E. coli* O157:H7, non-O157 STEC, and *Salmonella*

H. IPP are to follow the instructions in Section V of FSIS Directive 9900.6 concerning verification activities related to control of product lots tested for adulterants pending receipt of acceptable results.

I. For additional guidance on Increased LOR, IPP are to follow the instructions in FSIS Directive 9900.6.

IV. DISPOSITION

A. IPP are to follow the instructions in Section VI of FSIS Directive 9900.6 and Chapter IX, Section V of FSIS Directive 10,010.1 concerning actions to take based on results.

B. In the event of a positive STEC result for the sampled lot, the sampled lot is adulterated, and IPP are to refuse entry. RMTAD is to coordinate with the Office of International Coordination (OIC) to gather information from the foreign Central Competent Authority (CCA) sufficient to identify any additional implicated product as outlined in FSIS Directive 9900.6.

C. RMTAD is to notify OFO District Management to retain all potentially implicated product until sufficient information is received from the CCA as per FSIS Directive 9900.6.

D. IPP are to refuse product from the same production lot and any other implicated production lots imported as part of other import lots if not already inspected and passed.

E. IPP are to allow inspected and passed product bearing the mark of inspection from the same production lot and any other implicated production lots imported as part of other import lots to move under FSIS seal to an appropriate Federal establishment to undergo full-lethality as described in Chapter IX, Section V of FSIS Directive 10,010.1. Otherwise, IPP are to condemn inspected and passed product bearing the mark of inspection from the same production lot and any other implicated production lots imported as part of other import lots for use as human food and verify appropriate disposal.

F. RMTAD is to initiate recall procedures for any product from the same production lot and other implicated production lots that have been released into commerce as part of other import lots.

V. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Import Export Policy Development Staff (IEPDS) 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 26-17**
Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible;
Product Field: Select **Import** from the drop-down menu;

Category Field: Select **Public Health Information System** from the drop-down menu;
Policy Arena: Select **International (Import/Export**) 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.

Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development