

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

FSIS NOTICE

25-20

5/7/20

FSIS SAMPLING OF FOWL SLAUGHTERED UNDER THE NEW POULTRY INSPECTION SYSTEM AS AUTHORIZED BY WAIVER

NOTE: DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS NOTICE UNTIL JUNE 1, 2020.

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) for the sampling of fowl carcasses at establishments operating under the New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS).

II. BACKGROUND

Fowl are slaughtered under traditional inspection. Fowl are female chickens greater than 10 months in age ([9 CFR 381.170](#)). FSIS has issued waivers from [9 CFR 381.76\(b\)\(1\)\(iv\)](#) and [9 CFR 381.67](#) to allow fowl establishments to operate under NPIS with line speeds up to 140 birds per minute. All establishments operating under waivers must participate in the *Salmonella* Initiative Program (SIP). As part of SIP, establishments must collect carcass samples for a daily paired rehang and post-chill Aerobic Plate Count (APC) testing and a weekly paired rehang and post-chill *Salmonella* testing. In addition, FSIS is assigning collection of post-chill samples for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* analysis at fowl establishments permitted to operate under NPIS through the issuance of a waiver. While fowl are not subject to *Salmonella* performance standards, FSIS will assess fowl slaughter establishments operating under NPIS via a waiver on how they are performing relative to the *Salmonella* performance standards for young chicken carcasses. This notice informs IPP that FSIS Public Health Information System (PHIS) sampling assignments for fowl slaughter establishments operating under an NPIS waiver will begin on June 1, 2020, and describes the procedures to be followed.

III. REFERENCES AND REVIEW OF MATERIALS

IPP assigned to establishments operating under an NPIS waiver to slaughter fowl 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*;
2. [FSIS Directive 10,250.1](#), *Salmonella and Campylobacter Verification Program for Raw Meat and Poultry Products*;
3. [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#), *Use of Sample Seals for Laboratory Samples and Other Applications*; and

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 6/1/21

OPI: OPPD

4. [FSIS Directive 5010.1](#), *Food Safety Related Topics for Discussion During Weekly Meetings with Establishment Management*.

IV. SAMPLING 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 **HC_HF_CARCO1** sampling task code.
- B. IPP are to notify official establishment management before collecting a sample and inform management that they will be collecting a fowl carcass sample for *Salmonella* and *Campylobacter* analysis. IPP are to inform the establishment that FSIS will categorize the establishment (i.e., category 1, 2, or 3) based on Salmonella results but will not post the establishment's category on the FSIS web site; however, sampling results will be used as a trigger point for the establishment to conduct a root cause analysis, as per the terms of the waiver. Because these establishments are not subject to the performance standards, fowl establishments will not be subject to follow-up sampling, Public Health Risk Evaluations (PHREs)/Food Safety Assessments (FSAs), or establishment specific category FSIS web postings.
- C. IPP are to refer to [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#) 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.
- D. IPP are to collect the samples and submit them to the FSIS laboratory within the PHIS identified sample collection window. IPP are to cancel any sampling tasks that cannot be collected and provide the applicable reason. IPP are not to allow sampling tasks to remain at the end of the sampling window.
- E. Tasks will be assigned based on volume at the same frequency as young chicken carcasses.

V. SAMPLING SUPPLIES FOR FOWL CARCASS SAMPLING

- A. IPP at fowl slaughter establishments operating under an NPIS waiver will receive sampling supplies from the FSIS laboratories in preparation for sample collection.
- B. If IPP did not receive sampling supplies or need additional sampling supplies, they are to request the supplies at least three business days before sampling is to occur. 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 via Outlook by selecting one of the below addresses from the Global Address List.

[FSIS – Sampling Supplies – Western Lab](#)
[FSIS – Sampling Supplies – Eastern Lab](#)
[FSIS – Sampling Supplies – Midwestern Lab](#)

To request sampling supplies by e-mail, IPP are to enter “Fowl Sampling Supplies” in the e-mail subject heading and, in the e-mail body, include the establishment name, number and street address (no P.O. boxes), the project code (HC_HF_CARCO1), and the IPP contact name and telephone number.

- C. The shipping container will include the following supplies:
 1. Pairs of gloves (2);
 2. 120-ml sterile plastic sample jar with screw cap (1);
 3. 15" x 20" large sterile plastic bag (1);

4. 400 mL sterile, pre-chilled neutralizing Buffered Peptone Water (nBPW) (1);
5. Quart re-sealable zipper lock bag (1);
6. 6" x 12" plastic sleeve or zipper lock bag for the printed PHIS form (FSIS form 8000-19 Revision 1) (1);
7. FSIS Laboratory Sample Seal (FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B) (1);
8. Absorbent pad (1);
9. Gel coolant pack (1 or more);
10. Foam plug (1);
11. Cardboard separator (1); and
12. Billable stamp (3, one per FSIS Laboratory for submitting the sample).

D. IPP are to use only the supplies provided for the fowl slaughter sampling. Additional cardboard separators and gel coolant packs may be included with the sampling supplies, depending upon the time of the year. Sampling supplies that are not provided in the shipping container or that are not sent from any of the three FSIS laboratories for this project are not to be used.

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

F. IPP are to place the gel packs in the freezer for a minimum of 12 hours prior to sample collection.

G. IPP are to refrigerate the nBPW upon receipt. The nBPW must be pre-chilled (refrigerated). Pre-chilling these items is critical to the sampling effort. IPP are to only use nBPW that is pre-chilled. IPP are not to use nBPW intended for other sampling projects.

VI. SAMPLE SELECTION AND SAMPLE COLLECTION

A. IPP are to select only fowl samples for this project. If the establishment slaughters other species under NPIS, the other species are not eligible for sampling under this project code.

B. IPP are to refer to [FSIS Directive 10,250.1](#), Chapter II, Sections III and IV on the collection of a carcass rinsate sample.

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. IPP are to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 10,250.1](#), Chapter VI to pack the shipping container and submit the collected sample.

C. 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 one of the laboratories listed in Section V.B. of this notice for a

pre-addressed return FedEx ground-shipping bill, using the e-mail address provided in Section V.B. of this notice.

VIII. SAMPLE RESULTS REPORTING AND FSIS ACTIONS

A. [FSIS Notice 21-19](#), *Actions to Take in Raw Poultry Establishments Exceeding Salmonella Performance Standards*, and [FSIS Notice 17-19](#), *Follow up Sampling in Raw Poultry Establishments Not Meeting Salmonella Performance Standards*, are **NOT** applicable to the fowl carcass sampling project. Therefore, IPP should not receive follow-up sampling tasks and District Offices are not to schedule PHREs. Sample results will be reported in PHIS and Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) Direct. IPP are to review the test results and inform the establishment of the results upon receipt.

B. At the next weekly meeting following the result of a completed sample, IPP are to discuss the new information with establishment management and document in weekly meeting notes (see [FSIS Directive 5010.1](#)).

C. If the establishment exceeds 5 *Salmonella* positives out of 51 samples analyzed or exceeds a 9.8% percent *Salmonella* positive in the 52-week moving window based on FSIS results or its own results, IPP are to verify that the establishment performs a root cause analysis, as instructed in the SIP verification plan. If IPP have any questions on whether the establishment's root cause analysis is sufficient, IPP are to consult the Office of Policy and Program Development (OPPD) through askFSIS. OPPD and other offices will continue to assess fowl establishments' SIP data and performance under the waiver, including FSIS sampling results, to determine whether future rulemaking or other changes are warranted.

D. As with the young chicken carcass sampling project, the PHIS Establishment Profile Summary Report will identify the Office of Planning, Analysis, and Risk Management (OPARM) calculated categorization (category 1, 2, or 3) based on the *Salmonella* performance standards for young chicken carcasses. IPP will receive PHIS Category Alerts, as applicable. Establishment category status for fowl will not be publicly posted on the FSIS website. In addition, if the fowl establishment is in Category 3, it will not be scheduled for a PHRE or assigned any follow-up sampling tasks.

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 **Notice 25-20**.

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 **Salmonella Initiative Program (SIP)** from the drop-down menu.

Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** from the drop-down menu.

When all fields are complete, click **Continue** and at the next screen click **Finish Submitting Question**.

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



Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development