

For many larger regional or national retail companies, the USDA mark of inspection is preferred if not required. This allows a plant operating under this program to expand its products' presence regionally and nationally.

Major Differences Between a Cooperative Interstate Shipment Agreement and Federal Inspection

Subject	CIS Inspected	Federally Inspected
Inspection Personnel	State appointed, federally trained inspectors	Federally appointed inspectors
Application	Apply for a recommendation via the State where the establishment resides.	Apply for a Grant of Inspection via the FSIS District Office associated with your State.
Inspection Label	Federally Inspected seal with "SE"; meaning the product was made from a "select establishment". The Federal seal will usually have the abbreviation as well. Each legend will differ due to different State abbreviations. (See Figure B for example)	One standard seal of inspection for carcasses, one standard seal of inspection for processed meats, and a standard seal for raw and processed poultry.

Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food (KYF2)

CIS complements the USDA "Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food" (KYF2) initiative, which emphasizes to consumers the importance of supporting local growers and producers.

It also blends well with the "locavore" movement, an effort to feature food that is grown, raised, and produced locally. Chefs and home cooks around the country have embraced this movement over recent years.

For example, a very small State-inspected slaughter facility in Ohio is close to the Pennsylvania border. On the Pennsylvania side, there's a small-scale cattle producer, however, there are no USDA -inspected facilities nearby.

Should the State-inspected facility in Ohio decide to participate in CIS, the small cattle producer in Pennsylvania can then utilize the facility. In essence, the problem has been resolved for the small-scale cattle producer in Pennsylvania.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture responsible for ensuring that the Nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.

Have additional questions? The FSIS Small Plant Help Desk serves as a "one-stop shop" for plant owners, operators and small producers in need of additional assistance.

For more information,
contact the

FSIS Small Plant Help Desk:

1-877-374-7435 or sphelpdesk@custhelp.com

FSIS subject-matter experts are available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday.



United States
Department of
Agriculture



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Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program

Food Safety and Inspection Service



CIS:

Cooperative Interstate Shipment Agreement and Federal Inspection



The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) Cooperative Interstate Shipment (CIS) program is a dynamic opportunity for State-inspected meat and poultry establishments to develop new markets for their products.

Under CIS, State-inspected plants continue to operate under State inspection but adhere to Federal food safety standards. As a result, they can also distribute their product in interstate commerce.

This comprehensive brochure provides you, the plant owner/operator, or small-scale livestock and poultry producer, a snapshot of all you need to know regarding the CIS program.



Figure A: The 27 States with "at least equal to" Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs.

The CIS program is available to the States that have established a Meat and Poultry Inspection Program that is "at least equal to" FSIS's regulatory requirements. There are 27 States that have met this standard.

States Participating in the CIS Program

The four States currently participating in the CIS program with FSIS are: Ohio, North Dakota, Wisconsin and Indiana.

State-Inspected Establishments Interested in Applying

To participate as a plant, you must be located in a State participating in the CIS program. You'll need to apply through the State agency administering the meat and poultry inspection program in your State. Only plants in one of the eligible States listed above can participate at this time.

Once you complete the application, the State will evaluate it and, based on its findings, will render a recommendation for you to participate in the CIS program to the FSIS District Office that covers your State.

To be considered for the program, you must meet the following requirements:

- Employ fewer than 25 full-time employees;
- Have an adequate food safety system; and
- Meet appropriate facility standards.

Once the FSIS District Office reviews the State's recommendation and accepts your application, you must comply with all the requirements under the applicable Federal Acts. They include:

- Meet the Federal regulatory sanitation performance standards in 9 CFR 416.1 through 416.5;
- Submit labels through FSIS's Labeling and Program Delivery Division for review;
- Obtain the same water source and sewage system approval that FSIS requires for federally regulated establishments;
- Develop written Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP) as noted in 9 CFR 416.11 through 416.16; and
- Write a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) Plan in compliance with 9 CFR Part 417.

You must comply with all Federal requirements in order to be selected into the CIS program.

Go to www.fsis.usda.gov/cis, to enter the Cooperative Interstate Shipment page.

Benefits of Becoming a CIS Establishment

One major CIS benefit is that a State plant's day-to-day operations do not drastically change. The assigned State inspectors under the "at least equal to" program will continue as the plant's onsite inspectors, provided they have the same training and inspect the plant under the same regulatory requirements as their Federal counterparts.

Additionally, CIS plants can sell product across State lines and via online mail order outside of the State. All products sold within CIS will bear the Federal mark of inspection.



Figure B: Images of the seal of inspection for the State of Ohio's Cooperative Interstate Shipment program products.