

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

FSIS NOTICE

40-19

10/17/19

SAMPLING OF YOUNG CHICKEN CARCASSES FOR NITROFURANS PRIOR TO CHILLING

DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS NOTICE UNTIL NOVEMBER 1, 2019.

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to IPP on collecting young chicken carcasses at a point prior to chilling for testing for nitrofurans, including the marker residue semicarbazide (SEM).

II. BACKGROUND

A. Nitrofurans are broad-spectrum antibiotics used to fight bacterial infections. The metabolism of the nitrofurans in the body results in tissue-bound metabolites, one of which is SEM. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) prohibits the use of nitrofurans in food-producing animals ([21 CFR 530](#)). Nitrofurazone is a nitrofuran. SEM has been used as a target analyte for monitoring compliance with the prohibitions against the use of nitrofurazone. Studies have shown that SEM can form through mechanisms other than the use of nitrofurazone, such as from environmental contaminants and reactive by-products formed during food processing. Therefore, SEM residue findings might not be indicative of nitrofurazone misuse.

B. FSIS will sample young chicken carcasses at a point prior to chilling to determine whether the presence of SEM in young chicken carcasses could be due to nitrofurazone use prior to slaughter. FSIS will collect these samples at official establishments that slaughter young chickens.

C. IPP at poultry slaughter establishments included in this sampling project will continue to receive directed sampling tasks for other residue testing under the U.S. National Residue Program (NRP).

D. This sampling project will continue for approximately 12 months after which it will be evaluated to determine whether it will be modified.

III. REFERENCES AND REVIEW OF TRAINING MATERIALS

IPP assigned to establishments that are included in this sampling project are to become familiar with the information provided in this notice and the following FSIS issuances:

1. [FSIS Directive 7,355.1](#), *Use of Sample Seals for Laboratory Samples and Other Applications*; and
2. [FSIS Directive 10,800.1](#), *Residue Sampling, Testing and Other Verification Procedures under the National Residue Program for Meat and Poultry Products*.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 11/1/20

OPI: OPPD

3. [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#), *Performing Sampling Tasks in Official Establishments Using the Public Health Information System*.

IV. AWARENESS MEETING WITH ESTABLISHMENT MANAGEMENT

Upon issuance of this notice, the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC) at an establishment that slaughters young chickens is to conduct an awareness meeting with establishment management to inform them of the sampling project. The IIC is to advise establishment management that it is eligible and may be selected for sampling under this project. IPP are to review the information contained in [Attachment 1](#) during the meeting.

V. SAMPLING SUPPLIES FOR CARCASS SAMPLE COLLECTION

A. Sample requests for this project will appear on the task list with the project code **NRP_WC** (National Residue Program – Whole Chickens). After scheduling the task on the task calendar, IPP are to request sampling supplies through the Public Health Information System (PHIS) or Outlook. IPP are to request supplies at least 72 hours (not including weekends and holidays) before they intend to collect the sample.

1. To request sampling supplies through PHIS, IPP are to right-click on the scheduled lab sampling task on the Task Calendar and then select “Request sampling supplies” from the drop-down menu.
2. To request sampling supplies via Outlook, IPP are to use the following address:

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

IPP are to use the subject heading “Sampling Supplies” in the e-mail and include the establishment name and number, IPP name and phone number and the project code, “NRP_WC” in the request.

B. The shipping container provided for this sampling project will contain the following supplies:

1. FSIS Laboratory Sample Container Seal (FSIS Form 7355-2A/2B);
2. Absorbent pad (1);
3. Cardboard separators (2);
4. Gel packs (2);
5. Non-sterile gloves (one pair);
6. Zipper-lock plastic bag, 18” x 24” (2);
7. Plastic sleeve for sample form (1); and
8. FedEx Billable Stamp (1).

C. IPP are to place the gel packs and shipping container in the freezer for a minimum of 12 hours prior to sample collection. IPP are to use all gel packs provided with the sampling supplies when packing the sample for shipping. If the shipping container is too large for the available freezer space, it should be placed in a refrigerator and chilled for a minimum of 12 hours.

NOTE: The number of gel packs included in the sampling supplies may vary depending upon the time of year.

D. If young chickens are not being slaughtered during the sample collection window, IPP are to delete the task from the task list and select the appropriate reason for deleting. If the sampling task has been scheduled on the task calendar but cannot be completed within the sample collection window, IPP are to cancel the sampling task. IPP are to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#) for deleting or cancelling sampling tasks.

E. IPP are to return any unused shipping containers and sampling supplies for this project, including the FedEx Billable Stamp, to the FSIS Western Laboratory (WL). IPP are to send a request to the WL for a pre-addressed return FedEx ground-shipping bill, using the e-mail address provided in Section V.A. of this notice.

VI. HOW TO COLLECT THE SAMPLE

A. Due to the design of this sampling project, the sample must be collected and shipped to the FSIS laboratory on the same day. IPP are to plan the sample collection during the production day such that the sample can be collected and shipped on the same day. IPP are not to collect samples at a time during the production day when FedEx is NOT available for same day pickup. IPP are NOT to hold the sample overnight for shipping the next day.

B. On the scheduled sample collection day, IPP are to randomly select one (1) carcass at a point in the production line where the carcass can be safely accessed and removed that is:

1. After evisceration;
2. Prior to the application of antimicrobial interventions after the evisceration step; and
3. Prior to chilling.

For example, this may be either at the location where carcasses are inspected by FSIS personnel or, in establishments operating under New Poultry Inspection System (NPIS), the point where carcasses are sorted by establishment employees. The carcass may also be selected after inspection at the point where the viscera are removed provided it is prior to the application of antimicrobial interventions and after the evisceration step.

C. IPP are to be aware that an establishment may have one or more points in its process prior to evisceration where an antimicrobial intervention is used (i.e., scalding, picker). IPP are to provide the name and location of antimicrobial interventions used prior to evisceration in their responses to the PHIS sampling questionnaire (see [Attachment 2](#)).

D. In an establishment where the location of the carcasses exiting the evisceration machine makes removing a carcass from a moving line unsafe, IPP are to work with the establishment to identify a suitable location to safely collect a carcass from the production line or request the assistance of an establishment employee to remove the carcass from the line.

E. To collect the sample, IPP are to:

1. Wash and dry hands and don non-sterile gloves;

2. Remove the selected carcass from the production line, at the pre-determined location, as described in VI. B and D. of this notice;
3. Allow any excess fluid to drain from the carcass; and
4. Place the carcass in the first zipper lock sample bag, expel the excess air from the bag, and close the zipper closure. Place the bagged sample in the second zipper lock bag, expel the excess air and close the zipper closure.

VII. HOW TO COMPLETE THE SAMPLING TASK AND SHIP THE SAMPLE

A. To complete the sampling task, IPP are to:

1. Collect and ship the sample on the same day, and
2. Complete the sampling task and questionnaire (see [Attachment 2](#)) using instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 13,000.2](#).

B. To ship the sample, IPP are to:

1. Remove gel pack and shipping container from the freezer. Place the absorbent pad in the bottom of the shipping box, place the sample in the box and place the frozen gel packs on the sides of the sample with the cardboard separator placed between the gel pack and the sample;
2. Place the completed form in the plastic sleeve provided;
3. Complete and sign the FSIS Laboratory Sample Seal (FSIS Form 7355-2A) and apply it to the shipping container, using the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 7355.1](#); and
4. Ship the same day to the WL.

NOTE: IPP are not to collect or ship samples on a Friday, Saturday, Sunday or the day before a Federal holiday.

C. Establishments are not required to hold the production lot pending laboratory results for samples collected for this sampling project.

VIII. SAMPLE RESULTS REPORTING AND FSIS ACTIONS

A. Sample results will be reported in PHIS. IPP are to review the test results and inform the establishment of the results. IPP are to follow the instructions provided in [FSIS Directive 10,800.1](#), Chapter V, for actions to take in response to the sample results.

B. For residue test results reported as “Not Detected”, IPP are to inform the establishment that the test result is “in compliance”.

C. For residue test results reported as “Detected – Violative”, IPP are to correlate with their supervisory chain of command for instructions on further actions to take in response to the test results.

D. IPP are to notify the establishment of each new violation, any developing trends, and final disposition of any carcass and its parts at the weekly meeting and document the meeting in a Memorandum of Interview (MOI). The IPP are to keep their supervisor apprised of the situation.

IX. QUESTIONS

Refer questions to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935 by pressing 4. When submitting a question through [askFSIS](#), use the **Submit a Question** tab, and enter the information in the fields provided as per below.

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 40-19**.

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.



Assistant Administrator
Office Policy and Program Development

ATTACHMENT 1

Information for Establishments on the Sampling of Young Chicken Carcasses Prior to Chilling for Nitrofurans

- FSIS developed the nitrofurans residue sampling project to identify metabolites of nitrofurans, including semicarbazide (SEM) in poultry carcasses.
- The sample for the study is a young chicken whole carcass. The carcass will be collected at a point in the production line immediately after evisceration and prior to chilling and the application of antimicrobial agents.
- The sample will be collected under the project code **NRP_WC** (NRP – Whole chicken) and will begin on or after **November 1, 2019**.
- The sample will be collected and shipped on the same day to the FSIS Western Laboratory for analysis using the nitrofurans method.
- The establishment is not required to hold the production lot pending laboratory results for the sample collected for this sampling project.
- FSIS will report the test results through PHIS.
- Poultry slaughter establishments eligible for **NRP_WC** testing will continue to receive other directed residue sampling tasks under the U.S. National Residue Program (NRP).
- If you have questions about this sampling project, please refer them to the Office of Policy and Program Development through [askFSIS](#) or by phone 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 40-19**.
Question Field: Enter 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 the **Submit** button.

ATTACHMENT 2: Questions when collecting young chicken carcass samples (NRP_WC)

The following questions are included in the sampling questionnaire. IPP are to answer all questions.

1. What was the time of sample collection (HHMM)?

Record the time of collection using the 24-hour clock (HHMM) (military time), e.g., if collected at 3:28 p.m., the appropriate entry would be 1528

2. (Select all that apply) Select the specific antimicrobial agent(s) that was applied to the carcass prior to the point of sample collection

- a. No antimicrobial agent was applied to this product
- b. DBDMH (1,3-dibromo-5,5-dimethylhydantoin) (e.g., AVIBROM, etc.)
- c. Chlorine (e.g., acidified sodium chlorite, calcium hypochlorite, chlorine gas, chlorine dioxide, hypochlorous acid, sodium hypochlorite)
- d. Organic acid (e.g., lactic, citric, acetic)
- e. Citric and Hydrochlorous acids (pH 1-2) (aqueous solution)
- f. Peroxyacetic acid (PAA) mixtures
- g. Cetylpyridinium chloride
- h. Trisodium phosphate
- i. Sodium Metasilicate
- j. Other – enter the chemical name of the antimicrobial agent [free text box]

3. (Select all that apply) At what point(s) in the process prior to the sample collection location was the antimicrobial agent(s) applied?

- a. No antimicrobial agent was applied to the carcass prior to collection
- b. Scalding
- c. Other – specify location(s) [free text box]