



## FSIS Retail *Listeria monocytogenes* Pilot (*Lm*) Project Update

On Jan. 25, 2016, FSIS launched a multi-year nationwide pilot project to assess whether retail establishments are using the recommendations in the [FSIS Best Practices Guidance for Controlling \*Lm\* in Retail Delicatessens](#) (FSIS Retail *Lm* Guidance), issued in June 2015. Since January 2016, FSIS has assessed annually approximately 1,700 to 1,800 retailers that have delis to determine the adoption rate of the recommendations. FSIS continues to track progress for this pilot project in its [Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Plan](#) and the [FSIS Strategic Plan, FY 2017-2021](#).

As of fiscal year (FY) 2018, third quarter (Q3), FSIS is on track to exceed its FY 2018 annual plan target with retailers following 92% of the 33 recommendations (target 91%). From FY 2016, second quarter (Q2) to FY 2018 Q3, the percentage of recommendations followed showed an increased trend in all four categories identified (facility and equipment controls, employee practices, product handling, and cleaning and sanitizing). Specifically, facility and equipment controls increased from 96% to 99%, employee practices from 95% to 97%, product handling from 85% to 88%, and cleaning and sanitizing from 80% to 85%.

Under its strategic plan, FSIS is also tracking whether retailers are following all of the top eight recommendations identified in the FSIS retail *Lm* guidance. The top eight recommendations can be found on pages 1-2 on the [FSIS Directive 10.310.1- Pilot Project: Control of \*Listeria Monocytogenes\* in Retail Delicatessens](#).

As of FY 2018 Q3, FSIS is on track to exceed its FY 2018 strategic plan target with 67% of retailers following these eight recommendations (target 61%). These targets were set from baseline information showing that 59% of retailers surveilled between January 1 and April 30, 2016 were following all eight of these recommended actions.

Retailers can refer questions regarding the *Lm* pilot project to FSIS through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935. When submitting a question, retailers should use the 'Submit a Question tab' and enter "Retail *Lm*" in the subject field, select "General Inspection Policy" for the product field, the category "Sampling" and the policy arena "Domestic (U.S.) Only."

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### Export Requirements Updates

The Library of Export Requirements has been updated for the following countries:

- Curacao
- Hong Kong
- New Caledonia
- Republic of Korea
- Republic of Macedonia
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Taiwan
- Turkey
- Western Samoa

For a complete list of countries, visit <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/international-affairs/exporting-products>.

# Reminder: USDA and FDA Will Hold a Joint Public Meeting on Use of Animal Cell Culture Technology to Develop Products Derived from Livestock and Poultry

On Sept. 10, 2018, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, DVM and U.S. Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D. announced a joint public meeting to be held on Oct. 23-24, 2018 to discuss the use of cell culture technology to develop products derived from livestock and poultry.

The joint public meeting, hosted by the FSIS and the FDA, will focus on the potential hazards, oversight considerations, and labeling of cell cultured food products derived from livestock and poultry. The first day of the meeting will focus primarily on the potential hazards that need to be controlled for the safe production of animal cell cultured food products and oversight considerations by regulatory agencies. The second day of the meeting will focus on labeling considerations.

Attendees are encouraged to pre-register to attend the meeting. Pre-registration is available at the [Meetings and Events](#) page on the FSIS website. The meeting will be held on Oct. 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Jefferson Auditorium in the U.S. Department of Agriculture South Building, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, D.C. 20250.

## Policy Updates

FSIS notices and directives on public health and regulatory issues are available at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations>. The following policy updates were recently issued:

**Notice 48-18** - *Quarterly Establishment Information Letters about Sampling Results*

**Docket No. FSIS-2018-0029** - *Eligibility of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam To Export Siluriformes Fish and Fish Products to the United States*

**Docket No. FSIS-2018-0030** - *Eligibility of the People's Republic of China To Export Siluriformes Fish and Fish Products to the United States*

**Docket No. FSIS-2018-0031** - *Eligibility of Thailand To Export Siluriformes Fish and Fish Products to the United States*

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