



USDA Releases Roadmap to Address *Salmonella*

FSIS have released their plan to decrease *Salmonella*, one of the leading causes of foodborne illnesses. The *Roadmap to Reducing Salmonella: Driving Change through Science-Based Policy*, outlines programs and policies that are science-based, data-driven, and promote innovation to reduce *Salmonella* in meat, poultry, and egg products.

OFS and FSIS will discuss the *Salmonella* roadmap at a virtual public meeting next week. Also participating in the meeting are USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The public meeting continues Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears' vision of building relationships, influencing behavior change and leading with science to enhance food safety.

Stakeholders are invited to participate in the public meeting and comment on the *Salmonella* roadmap and science that drive FSIS' *Salmonella* reduction efforts. The public meeting has reached its capacity for oral comments. Interested parties can still submit written comments on or before Sept. 25, 2020 at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

The Sept. 22 public meeting will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. ET. The meeting is virtual and will be viewed via the Webex link provided by email upon registration for the meeting. There is no fee to register for the public meeting, but pre-registration is mandatory for participants to attend.

More information on the public meeting is available at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/meetings>.

The roadmap is available at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/FSISRoadmaptoReducingSalmonella>.

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FSIS Extends Deadline for Temporary Allowances for Labels Going to Retail Through the End of the Year

FSIS recognizes the ongoing challenges industry and retailers are facing with the labeling and redirection of products for distribution for retail sale. As a follow up to FSIS' [May 1, 2020](#) and [July 10, 2020](#) *Constituent Update* announcements, FSIS is again extending its enforcement discretion through the end of the year. FSIS is clarifying that the enforcement discretion the agency is exercising for certain labeling described below is temporary through the end of the year and will not require establishments to submit labels for temporary approval. Establishments will only need to submit labels for temporary approval if there are other deficiencies that FSIS will need to consider on a case-by-case basis (e.g., formulation changes that affect claims or export labels now intended to be used domestically). Temporary approval will be granted provided the label meets the conditions for temporary approval in 9 CFR 412.1(f). Establishments must make sure they are making the necessary changes to bring their labels into compliance after the expiration of the temporary allowances by January 1, 2021. FSIS will provide additional information on labeling issues in the future, if necessary.

Labeling at a Federal Establishment

Product produced at a federal establishment typically intended for distribution to hotels, restaurants, or similar institutions (HRI) will have modified labels applied by the federal establishment so that the products can now be sold at retail. The label would be mandated to bear all required features. FSIS will not object to the use of labels without nutrition labeling, even if the establishment does not meet an exemption under 9 CFR 317.400 and 381.500, provided the labels do not bear any nutrition claims. The absence of nutrition labeling would normally require an establishment to submit for temporary approval under 9 CFR 412.1(f)(1). However, if the only deficiency is the absence of nutrition labeling, FSIS will not require establishments to submit for temporary approval until January 1, 2021. If the proposed label has other deficiencies from FSIS labeling requirements (e.g., formulation changes not reflected in the ingredients statement), establishments will need to submit the label for temporary approval for an evaluation on a case by case basis.

Labeling at Retail for Bulk Product Already in Commerce

Bulk product, even if labeled for HRI (e.g. child nutrition labeled product or product labeled for a specific restaurant or institution), may be distributed to retail where the retailer will repackage the product into smaller consumer size packages and apply a label. The label applied to the repackaged product will need to bear all required features except for the USDA mark of inspection. The only deviation from current requirements under 9 CFR 317.8 and 381.129 is the bulk product may be distributed in a manner that is inconsistent with a statement of limited use on the outer box. For example, a box labeled "for school foodservice use only" can now be distributed to a retail outlet for repackaging and labeling. FSIS will not object to products being distributed in a manner that is inconsistent with the statement of limited use under 9 CFR 317.8 and 381.129 through the end of the year.

FSIS Constituent Update is prepared by the Congressional and Public Affairs Staff, Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Education

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Labeling at Retail for Product in Unlabeled Protective Coverings Already in Commerce

A fully labeled container with meat or poultry products in unlabeled protective coverings may be distributed to a retailer for labeling, which is not currently allowed under 9 CFR 317.1 and 381.115. The container may have a statement of limited use that would normally indicate that the product is for HRI only (see example above). FSIS will not object to the container being distributed to retail and the retailer applying a label to the protective covering so that the product may be sold at retail on a temporary basis (see date below). The label applied by the retailer may be an insert label supplied by the federal establishment that produced the product or it could be a label that the retailer printed. The insert label provided by the establishment or, alternatively, the label printed at retail, should duplicate the label on the incoming container. The labels applied by the retailer are expected to bear all required features with the exception of the USDA mark of inspection. Labels printed at retail cannot bear the USDA mark of inspection. FSIS will also not require nutrition labeling for such product even if an exemption from nutrition labeling does not apply. FSIS will permit retailers to label products in protective coverings in this manner through the end of the year.

FSIS to Post Individual Category Status and Aggregate Results for Poultry Carcasses, Chicken Parts, and Comminuted Poultry Tested for *Salmonella*

On September 21, 2020, FSIS will update the individual establishment *Salmonella* performance standard category information for raw poultry carcasses, raw chicken parts and comminuted poultry products at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/salmonella-verification-testing-program/establishment-categories>.

Additionally, FSIS will post the aggregate sampling results showing the number of establishments in categories 1, 2, or 3 for establishments producing young chicken or turkey carcasses, raw chicken parts or not ready-to-eat (NRTE) comminuted poultry products at <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/data-collection-and-reports/microbiology/salmonella-verification-testing-program/aggregate-data>.

Export Requirements Update

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

China, People's Republic of
Iraq
Japan
Korea, Republic of
Oman
Singapore
United Arab Emirates

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

USDA Completes Appointments to Food Safety Advisory Committee

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the appointment of 10 members to the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection (NACMPI).

“USDA is excited to announce the final 10 committee members to NACMPI,” said Under Secretary for Food Safety Dr. Mindy Brashears. “Together these 20 members represent a multitude of perspectives and bring a variety of expertise to the committee. Their knowledge and advice will play a key role in informing USDA’s food safety decisions to ensure the U.S. continues to have one of the safest food systems in the world.”

The new NACMPI members appointed to serve two-year terms are:

- Mr. Gregory Gunthorp, Gunthorp Farms
- Dr. Alice Johnson, Butterball, LLC
- Dr. Denise Perry, Lorentz Meats
- Ms. Sarah Sorscher, Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Ms. Teresa Schwartz, Center for Foodborne Illness Research and Prevention (ret.)

Five previous NACMPI members’ terms were extended by one year:

- Dr. Amilton De Mello, University of Nevada
- Mr. Thomas Gremillion, Consumer Federation of America
- Mr. James Jenkins, Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry
- Ms. Tina Rendon, Pilgrim’s Pride Corp.
- Ms. Kimberly Rice, Rose Acre Farms

See the [full list of NACMPI members](#).

NACMPI was established in 1971 by the USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). NACMPI is an advisory committee that advises on food safety concerns and other matters affecting inspection program activities, including food safety policies that will contribute to USDA’s regulatory policy development. More information on NACMPI is available on the [FSIS website](#).

Reminder: Upcoming FSIS Public Meetings

FSIS is hosting multiple public meetings in the coming weeks. Below is a list of the upcoming virtual meetings.

- USDA FSIS Virtual Public Meeting: *Salmonella* - State of the Science (September 22, 2020)
 - The public meeting has reached its capacity for oral comments. Interested parties can still submit written comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection Public Meeting (September 24 – 25, 2020)
- Food Safety: Consumer Outreach and Education Today and for the Future (October 6, 2020)
 - The public meeting has reached its capacity for oral comments. Interested parties can still submit written comments at <http://www.regulations.gov>.

Additional information on the upcoming meetings and details on how to register can be found at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/meetings>.

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:

FSIS Notice 45-20 - End of the Year Performance Management Instructions

Docket No. FSIS-2019-0019 - Prior Label Approval System: Expansion of Generic Label Approval