

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

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<b>FSIS NOTICE</b>	26-12	3/30/12
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**PRE-IMPLEMENTATION INFORMATION ON THE UPCOMING FSIS NON-O157  
SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* (STEC) VERIFICATION TESTING  
PROGRAM**

**I. PURPOSE**

This notice provides inspection program personnel (IPP) with information on how the Agency plans to proceed in implementing its HACCP verification testing program for beef manufacturing trimmings. This program will involve testing for seven relevant Shiga Toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC), including O157, O26, O103, O111, O121, O45, and O145. Soon, FSIS will instruct IPP on new verification procedures that will describe how they collect raw beef manufacturing trimmings samples to implement this new testing program. FSIS expects to have these instructions out by June 4, 2012. Until IPP receive these instructions, they are not to conduct any verification activities associated with STECs other than *E. coli* O157:H7 (O157 STEC).

The instructions will state that when FSIS's non-O157 STEC verification activities begin on June 4, 2012, they will be limited to IPP collecting samples of beef manufacturing trimmings from cattle slaughtered on or after the June 4, 2012, date. The samples will be analyzed for O157 STEC and the six relevant non-O157 STEC.

**III. ASKFSIS QUESTIONS**

FSIS has published askFSIS Questions and Answers on [non-O157 STEC](#) issues. IPP can view the questions by searching the questions database on the askFSIS website.

IPP are to refer questions regarding this notice to the Risk, Innovations & Management Division through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935 (press 1 and 4).



Assistant Administrator  
Office of Policy and Program Development

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