

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

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# FSIS NOTICE

72-12

12/18/12

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## DOCUMENTING SAMPLE SOURCE WHEN COLLECTING SAMPLES FOR SHIGA TOXIN-PRODUCING *ESCHERICHIA COLI* (STEC) VERIFICATION TESTING

### I. PURPOSE

This notice provides new instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) for verifying and documenting the sample source (beef, veal, or mixed) in the Public Health Information System (PHIS) when collecting raw beef samples under FSIS's verification testing programs for Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC).

### II. BACKGROUND

A. Beginning January 2011, FSIS laboratory sample forms for *E. coli* O157:H7 verification testing programs in raw beef products requested information to distinguish a sample from raw beef from a sample for veal. When FSIS implemented directed sampling tasks in the Public Health Information System (PHIS), PHIS continued the request for this information.

B. FSIS test results show that the percent positive for STEC from ground beef and trimmings produced from veal is higher than for STEC from ground beef and trimmings produced from other cattle slaughter classes.

C. FSIS will start reporting veal and beef separately on its [website](#) where it reports results from its STEC verification testing programs in raw beef products.

### III. INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

A. When collecting samples under FSIS's verification testing programs for STEC in raw beef products, IPP are to record the sample source in PHIS as:

1. Veal;
2. Beef; or
3. Mixed (composed of beef and veal, or beef or veal with other species).

B. IPP are to use finished product or in-process labeling for determining sample source.

C. IPP are to record the sample source in PHIS when completing the applicable sampling tasks in PHIS.

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**DISTRIBUTION:** Electronic

**NOTICE EXPIRES:** 1/1/14

**OPI:** OPPD

#### IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Risk, Innovations, and Management Division through [askFSIS](#) or by telephone 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 **FSIS Notice XXX**  
Question Field: Enter question with as much detail as possible.  
Product Field: Select General Inspection from the drop-down menu.  
Category Field: Select Sampling *E. coli* O157:H7 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.



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