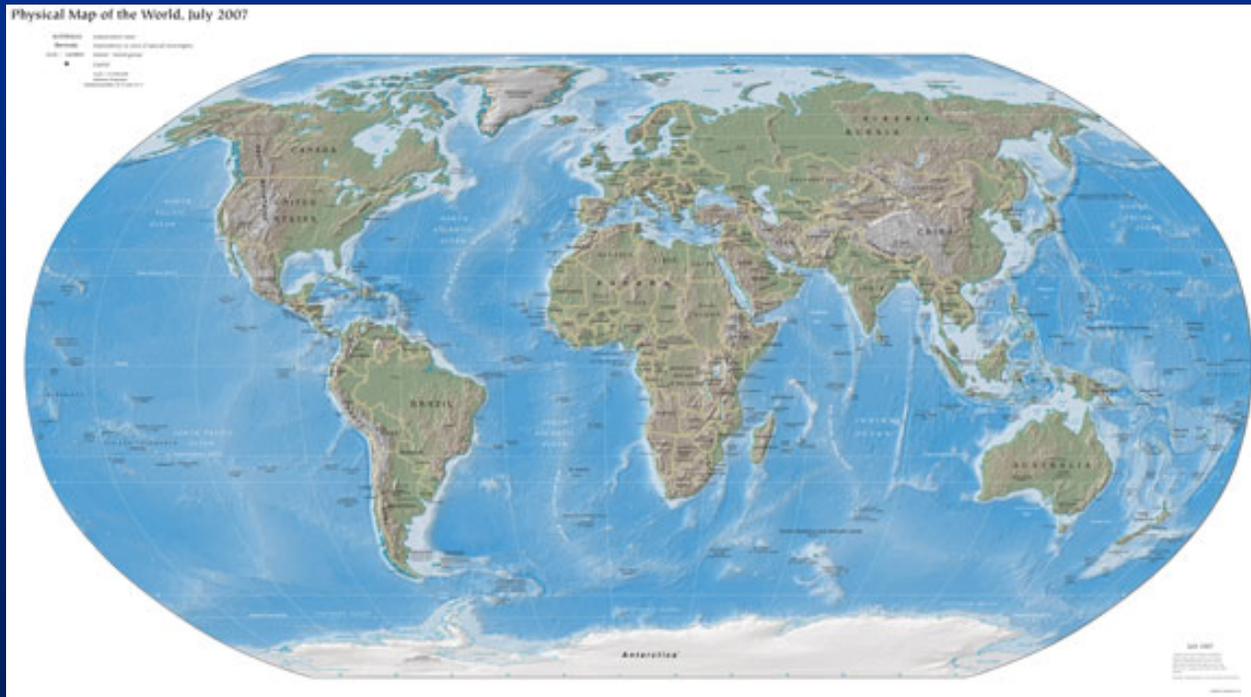


E. coli O157:H7 and Certain Beef Exporting Countries



**Sally White, Director, International Equivalency Staff
Office of International Affairs, Food Safety and Inspection Service**

Countries Exporting Fresh Beef Trim, Ground Beef, or Other Components of Ground Beef

- Australia
- Canada
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Honduras
- Mexico
- New Zealand
- Nicaragua
- Uruguay

Notification of New Requirements

October 19--Letter to countries exporting fresh beef trim, ground beef, or other components of ground beef

- Advised of new control program for beef trim, ground beef, and ground beef components
- Advised they must implement same or equivalent control program

Notification of New Requirements

October 23—Letter to countries exporting fresh beef trim, ground beef, or other components of ground beef

- Advised that FSIS planned to extend sampling for *E. coli* O157:H7 to imported products at the port of entry

Notification of New Requirements

Conference calls held with inspection officials of countries exporting fresh beef trim, ground beef, or other components of ground beef

Status of Country Control Programs

FSIS has determined that the following countries have equivalent control programs:

- Australia
- Costa Rica
- New Zealand
- Uruguay

Status of Country Control Programs

Control programs from the following countries are still under review:

- Canada
- Chile
- Honduras
- Nicaragua
- Mexico

Compensating Controls

For those countries with programs under review by
FSIS:

Sampling has been increased and will remain
increased until FSIS has determined the country
has an equivalent control program.

Equivalence Process

1. Country requests equivalence determination on one or more aspects of their *E. coli* 0157:H7 control program.
2. Criteria developed by the Office of International Affairs with assistance from other program areas, such as the Office of Policy and Program Development and the Office of Public Health Science.

Equivalence Process

3. Reviewers apply criteria to request and recommendation is made on whether equivalence request meets the criteria, does not meet the criteria, or additional information is needed before an equivalence determination can be made.

Equivalence Process

4. Country notified of equivalence decision, whether positive or negative, or need for additional information.

Reduced Testing—Risk Reduction Criteria

1. Indigenous Risk Reduction
 - 50% reduction in sampling
2. Enhanced Testing Program
 - additional 50% reduction in sampling
3. Enhanced Government Intervention Program
 - final 50% reduction in sampling

Port of Entry Activities

- POE testing began Tuesday January 22
- Products subject to testing—raw ground beef, beef manufacturing trimmings, raw ground beef components, similar products used to produce ground beef or beef patties

Port of Entry Activities

- Number of samples to be collected per country determined by FSIS' Office of Food Defense and Emergency Response and Office of Public Health Science

Port of Entry Activities

- FSIS' Automated Import Inspection System assigns an *E. coli* O157:H7 inspection task
- Import inspectors use N60 method to collect samples
- FSIS labs use MLG 5A.01 (recent change from MLG 5A.00) and MLG 5.04 (recent change from MLG 5.03) to analyze samples

Port of Entry Activities

- FSIS recommends that product be placed on voluntary hold at the port of entry until test results are received
- If a positive test result received and product held, the product will be refused entry

Port of Entry Activities

- FSIS will request information on other products that may be exported to the US under the same production lot or code
- If a positive test result received and product not held, the product with the positive test result and product produced under the same production lot or code will be subject to recall

Port of Entry Activities

- Implicated foreign establishment placed on intensified inspection
- Next 15 lots are sampled and tested
- The 15 lots must be held at the port of entry

E. coli O157:H7 and Certain Beef Exporting Countries

QUESTIONS?