

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

FSIS NOTICE

17-17

3/13/17

SAMPLING IMPORTED RAW BEEF PRODUCT ASSIGNED AN *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TYPE OF INSPECTION AT AN INCREASED LEVEL OF REINSPECTION

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) at official import inspection establishments on sampling of raw beef product when an *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 type of inspection (TOI) is assigned at an Increased Level of Reinspection (LOR). This notice applies to beef product from the following foreign countries: France, Ireland, and the Netherlands. Beef product from additional countries with raw beef products inspection systems for which FSIS reinstates equivalence or grants initial equivalence may be assigned an *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TOI at the increased level in the future. In this situation, FSIS will issue additional instructions to notify inspection program personnel of the change.

NOTE: For the purposes of this notice, when the notice references “raw beef,” it includes veal, and when the notice references “components,” they include head meat, cheek meat, weasand meat, heart meat, product from advanced meat recovery systems, low temperature rendered products (e.g., partially defatted chopped beef, partially defatted beef fatty tissue, and low temperature rendered lean finely textured beef), and ammoniated beef products.

II. BACKGROUND

A. Once FSIS has determined that a foreign country is equivalent to export raw beef, FSIS may assign an *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TOI at an Increased LOR that is above the Normal LOR.

B. The purpose of this targeted verification testing of shipments of raw beef products is for FSIS to verify that the foreign country’s raw beef products inspection system is adequately addressing these pathogens. For this reason, FSIS will sample primal and subprimal cuts from foreign countries when these countries are not shipping boneless manufacturing trimmings and other components to the United States. FSIS will analyze these samples for *Salmonella* and shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC).

III. SAMPLING

A. When the Public Health Information System (PHIS) assigns a TOI for *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 at an Increased LOR, the TOI will be assigned to the product groups identified in Table 2, *FSIS’s Sampling Programs for Imported Products at Increased LOR for E. coli O157:H7 MT51 TOI*.

B. IPP are to follow the procedures in [FSIS Directive 9900.6, Laboratory Sampling Program For Imported Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products](#), for ordering supplies, submitting samples, and interpreting results in PHIS.

C. IPP should not mark the TOI as “not performed” on any product assigned a TOI for *E. coli* O157:H7

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 4/1/18

OPI: OPPD

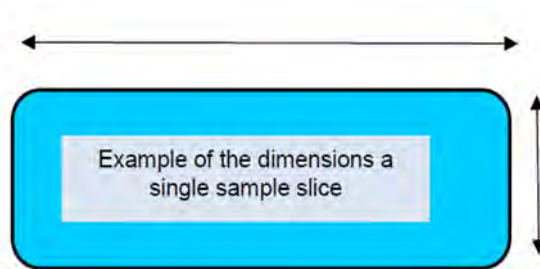
MT51 at an Increased LOR.

D. IPP are to use the sampling methods provided in [FSIS Directive 10,010.1, Sampling Verification Activities for Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli \(STEC\) in Raw Beef Products](#), Chapter V to sample for boneless manufacturing trimmings and components.

E. For primal and subprimal cuts that are not individually vacuum packaged, IPP are to use the N60 sampling method provided in [FSIS Directive 10,010.1](#), Chapter V.

F. For individually vacuum packaged primal and subprimal cuts in containers, IPP are to:

1. Randomly select five containers if the lot consists of more than five containers, and remove one individually vacuum packaged primal or subprimal cut from each container for sampling;
2. Select all containers if the lot consists of five containers or less and randomly select five individually vacuum packaged primal or subprimal cuts from the available containers;
3. Remove the five selected primal or subprimal cuts from their packaging and aseptically take 12 sample slices from each of the five selected primal or subprimal cuts to obtain a total of 60 sample slices. The sample slice should be about 3 inches long by 1 inch wide and 1/8th inch thick, as shown below; and



4. If there are five or fewer primal or subprimal cuts in the lot, IPP are to refer to Table 1, *Number of Sample Slices to Collect per Primal or Subprimal Cut*, to determine the number of sample slices to collect from each primal or subprimal cut.

Table 1. Number of Sample Slices to Collect per Primal or Subprimal Cut

# of Primal or Subprimal Cuts in Each Specific Lot	# of Sample Slices to Collect from Each Primal or Subprimal Cut
5	12 sample slices
4	15 sample slices
3	20 sample slices
2	30 sample slices
1	60 sample slices

G. IPP are to select the appropriate analyses based on the information provided in Table 2, *FSIS's Sampling Programs for Imported Products at Increased LOR for E. coli O157:H7 MT51 TOI*.

Table 2. FSIS's Sampling Programs for Imported Products at Increased LOR for <i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 MT51 TOI		
TOI	Product Group	Analyzed for
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 MT51 Increased LOR	Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings, Primals and Subprimals, Carcass (Including Carcass Halves or Quarters), Cuts	<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7, non-O157 STEC, and <i>Salmonella</i>
<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 MT51 Increased LOR	Head Meat, Cheek Meat, Heart Meat, Weasand Meat, Advanced Meat Recovery Product (AMR), Finely Textured Beef, Low Temperature Rendered Product, Partially Defatted Beef Fatty Tissue (PDBFT), Partially Defatted Chopped Beef (PDCB)	<i>E. coli</i> O157:H7 and <i>Salmonella</i>

H. IPP are to follow the instructions in Section V of [FSIS Directive 9900.6, Laboratory Sampling Program for Imported Meat, Poultry, and Egg Products](#), concerning verification activities related to control of product lots tested for adulterants pending receipt of acceptable results. IPP are to follow the instructions in Section VI of [FSIS Directive 9900.6](#) concerning actions to take based on results.

I. The *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TOI assigned at an Increased LOR is automated through PHIS. Once FSIS has conducted verification testing sufficient to verify that the foreign country's raw beef products inspection system achieves an equivalent level of public health protection, the Increased LOR will no longer be assigned by PHIS. At that point, the country will be placed back on Normal LOR. Once a country is placed back on Normal LOR for the *E. coli* O157:H7 MT51 TOI, the TOI will only be assigned to Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings and Components.

J. For additional guidance on Increased LOR, IPP are to follow the guidance in [FSIS Directive 9900.6](#).

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Import Export Policy Development Staff (IEPDS) through [askFSIS](#). When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab and enter the following information in the fields provided:

- Subject Field: Enter **Notice 17-17**
- Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible;
- Product Field: Select **Import** from the drop-down menu;
- Category Field: Select **Public Health Information System** from the drop-down menu;
- Policy Arena: Select **International (Import/Export)** from the drop-down menu;

When all fields are complete, press **Continue** and at the next screen press **Finish Submitting Question**.

NOTE: Refer to [FSIS Directive 5620.1, Using askFSIS](#), for additional information on submitting questions.



Assistant Administrator
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