

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

FSIS NOTICE

02-18

1/3/18

UPDATE TO SAMPLING SUPPLIES FOR ROUTINE RISK-BASED *Listeria monocytogenes* SAMPLING AND INTENSIFIED VERIFICATION TESTING PROGRAMS

I. PURPOSE

This notice informs Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) of a new pre-moistened swab that will be included with some routine risk-based *Listeria monocytogenes* (RLm) and intensified verification testing (IVT) sampling supplies. This notice also provides instructions for using and storing the pre-moistened swabs.

II. BACKGROUND

A. RLm and IVT supplies include dry swabs to use for collecting food contact and environmental swab samples. The supplies also include Dey-Engley (DE) broth to hydrate the swab. These supplies with the dry sponge and DE tube may remain in use until the laboratories exhaust remaining supply, or if for any reason the pre-moistened sponge is unattainable. Either supply (dry with DE tube or pre-moistened) is equivalent for use in FSIS sampling.

B. The FSIS Midwestern Laboratory (MWL) validated a swab pre-moistened with DE broth for use in collecting food contact and environmental swab samples.

III. EIAO RESPONSIBILITIES

A. EIAOs will continue to follow sampling instructions in [FSIS Directive 10240.5](#), *Verification Procedures for Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officers (EIAOs) for the Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) Regulation and Routine Risk-based Listeria monocytogenes Sampling Program* and [FSIS Directive 10300.1](#), *Intensified Verification Testing (IVT) Protocol for Sampling of Product, Food Contact Surfaces, and Environmental Surfaces for Listeria monocytogenes (Lm) or Salmonella spp.*

B. Beginning immediately, EIAOs will receive either the dry sponge/DE broth tube combination OR the new pre-moistened sponge in the sampling supplies. Either is fit-for-purpose in RLm and IVT food contact and environmental sampling.

C. EIAOs are to be aware that the pre-moistened sponges will appear slightly blue in color upon receipt (see Figure 1). This coloration is a result of the DE already on the swab.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 1/1/19

OPI: OPPD

Figure 1. Pre-moistened Swab



D. R_{Lm} and IVT supplies must be refrigerated upon receipt (until use).

E. It is not necessary to rinse or wipe food-contact surfaces after sampling with the pre-moistened sponge.

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions regarding this notice to Risk, Innovation and Management Staff (RIMS) through [askFSIS](#), or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935 by pressing 4. When submitting a question, use the Submit a Question tab, and enter the following information in the fields provided:

Subject Field: Enter **Notice 02-18**

Question Field: Enter your question with as much detail as possible.

Product Field: Select **General Inspection Policy** from the drop-down menu.

Category Field: Select **Sampling-General** from the drop down menu.

Policy Arena: Select **Domestic (U.S.) Only** 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.



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