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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

Addendum

The following communication, received on 22 November 2022, is being circulated at the request of the Delegation of the United States of America.

Expansion of FSIS Shiga Toxin Producing *Escherichia coli* (STEC) Testing to Additional Raw Beef Products

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that on 1 February 2023, the Agency will expand its routine verification testing for six Shiga toxin-producing *Escherichia coli* that are adulterants (non-O157 STEC; O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, or O145), in addition to the adulterant *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) O157:H7, to ground beef, bench trim, and other raw ground beef components in addition to raw beef manufacturing trimmings in official establishments. The raw ground beef components to be tested for these six non-O157 STEC, hereafter "other raw ground beef components," are: head meat, cheek meat, weasand (esophagus) meat, product from advanced meat recovery (AMR) systems, partially defatted chopped beef and partially defatted beef fatty tissue, low temperature rendered lean finely textured beef, and heart meat. Currently, FSIS tests only its beef manufacturing trimmings samples for these six non-O157 STEC and *E. coli* O157:H7. Otherwise, all other raw beef products are tested only for *E. coli* O157:H7 and *Salmonella*.

FSIS also will begin testing for these non-O157 STEC in ground beef samples that it collects at retail stores and in applicable samples it collects of imported raw beef products.

Additionally, in this Federal Register notice, FSIS is responding to comments regarding the STEC testing expansion and the costs and benefits analysis (CBA), as well as its updated STEC laboratory testing criteria for determining whether a result is positive.

Dates: Beginning 1 February 2023, FSIS will implement routine verification testing for the six additional STECs discussed in this document (O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, and O145) in raw ground beef, bench trim, and other raw ground beef components. At this time, FSIS also will implement testing for these non-O157 STEC in ground beef samples that it collects at retail stores and in applicable samples it collects of imported raw beef products.

Information on this publication is available at: <https://www.fsis.usda.gov/policy/federal-register-rulemaking/federal-register-notices/expansion-fsis-shiga-toxin-producing>
<https://www.regulations.gov/document/FSIS-2010-0023-0058>
https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/media_file/documents/FSIS-2010-0023.pdf
https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2022/SPS/USA/22_7974_00_e.pdf

This addendum concerns a:

- Modification of final date for comments
- Notification of adoption, publication or entry into force of regulation
- Modification of content and/or scope of previously notified draft regulation
- Withdrawal of proposed regulation
- Change in proposed date of adoption, publication or date of entry into force
- Other:

Comment period: (If the addendum extends the scope of the previously notified measure in terms of products and/or potentially affected Members, a new deadline for receipt of comments should be provided, normally of at least 60 calendar days. Under other circumstances, such as extension of originally announced final date for comments, the comment period provided in the addendum may vary.)

Sixty days from the date of circulation of the addendum to the notification and/or (dd/mm/yy): Not applicable

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: National Notification Authority, National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

Rachel Edelstein, Assistant Administrator, USDA FSIS Office of Policy and Program Development by telephone at +(202) 205 0495.

Text(s) available from: National Notification Authority, National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:
