



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Grain Inspection,
Packers and Stockyards
Administration

Stop 3630
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January 29, 2010

Reference # 228

TO: FGIS POLICY BULLETIN BOARD

FROM: Robert Lijewski, Acting Director /s/ *Robert Lijewski*
Field Management Division

SUBJECT: Limiting Analysis of Lots Containing Deleterious Substances, and Testing Plant
Environmental Material Collected During Plant Sanitation Inspection.

ORIGINATING OFFICE: Policies, Procedures and Market Analysis Branch

1. PURPOSE

This memorandum is issued to provide information on the limitation of the review inspection of processed commodity samples.

This memorandum also expands the laboratory testing requirement of environmental material collected as part of plant sanitations of facilities that produce or intend to produce certain processed commodities for USDA's food assistant programs.

2. BACKGROUND

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture administers specific commodity programs designed for voluntary production adjustment; resource protection; and price, market, and farm income stabilization. Included in these programs is the responsibility to purchase food items for use in domestic and overseas (export) feeding programs.

Some food items purchased by FSA must meet specific bacteriological requirements, such as bacteria count, E. coli, Salmonella, and Staphylococcus aureas. The food items requiring bacteriological testing includes the following products:

Corn Soy Blend, Export
Corn Soya Milk, Export
Instant Corn Masa Flour, Domestic
Instant Corn Soya Masa Flour, Export
Instant Corn Soya Milk, Export
Soy Flour Full Fat, Export

Soy Fortified Bulgur, Export
Soy Fortified Rolled Oats, Export
Soy Fortified Sorghum Grits, Export
Wheat Soy Blend, Export
Wheat Soy Milk, Export

When as a result of testing by the Commodity Testing Laboratory (CTL) a sample of the above products exceeds the bacteriological limits specified in FSA documents, the applicant may request an appeal inspection, provided the original inspection result was negative for salmonella. If the sample was salmonella positive, the review inspection is limited to a retest of the file sample. No appeal inspection may be obtained.

Additionally, applicants must produce products in a salmonella free facility. This is determined by FGIS performing a plant sanitation inspection of plants that are processing or intend to process products requiring USDA inspection for quality. As part of the plant sanitation inspection, FGIS collects environmental samples drawn from locations in the facilities that may harbor organisms or where contact with the product is or could be made by human or other sources of contamination. Currently, CTL is required to test the environmental samples for the presence of only salmonella, although the facility may harbor other harmful organisms that could possibly contaminate the product being produced by the plant.

FGIS has established the following policy to ensure that USDA purchases quality products produced in environmentally safe facilities.

3. POLICY

CTL will not perform an appeal analysis on lots containing a deleterious substance. FGIS considers Salmonella, E. Coli, Coagulase Positive Staphylococci, Staphylococcus aureas, and bacteria count in excess of 50,000 as deleterious substances.

Additionally, CTL will analyze all environmental samples collected during plant sanitation inspection for the same deleterious substances required to be tested in the product.

4. EFFECTIVE DATE

The above policy is effective on January 29, 2010.

5. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File this policy memorandum in the Processed Commodities Handbook and the Sanitation Handbook.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to Andy Greenfield, Policies, Procedures and Market Analysis Branch, at (202) 720-0277 or email at Andrew.S.Greenfield@usda.gov.