DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–040N]

Codex Alimentarius: Meeting of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), is sponsoring a public meeting on January 15, 2004, to provide information and receive public comments on agenda items that will be discussed at the Tenth Session of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene, which will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, on February 16–20, 2004. The Under Secretary recognizes the importance of providing interested parties with information about the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene of the Codex Alimentarius Commission and to address items on the Agenda for the 10th Session of the Committee.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 15, 2004, from 1 p.m.–4 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Department of Agriculture's South Building in Room 0161, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC. To receive copies of the documents referenced in this notice, contact the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Docket Clerk, USDA, FSIS, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700. The documents will also be accessible via the World Wide Web at the following address: *http://www.codexalimentarius.net/ccmh10/mh04_01e.htm.* If you have comments, please send an original and two copies to the FSIS Docket Clerk and reference Docket #03–040N. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Edith Kennard, Staff Officer, U.S. Codex Office, FSIS, Room 4861, South Agriculture Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250, Telephone: (202) 720–5261, Fax: (202) 720–3157.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The Codex Alimentarius Commission was established in 1962 by two United Nations organizations, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Health Organization (WHO). Codex is the major international organization for encouraging fair international trade in food and protecting the health and economic interests of consumers. Through adoption of food standards, codes of practice, and other guidelines developed by its committees, and by promoting their adoption and implementation by governments, Codex seeks to ensure that the world's food supply is sound, wholesome, free from adulteration, and correctly labeled. In the United States, USDA, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency manage and carry out U.S. Codex activities.

The Codex Executive Committee (CEC), at its 47th Session in 2000, asked that the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene reconvene to redraft the existing codes on meat hygiene so that they reflect contemporary developments. The CEC also asked that the scope of the existing codes be broadened so as to include poultry meat hygiene. These recommendations were confirmed by the 24th Session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission in July 2001.

Issues To Be Discussed at the Public Meeting

Provisional agenda items to be discussed during the public meeting:

1. Draft Code of Hygienic Practice for Meat.
2. Proposed Draft Annex on Risk-Based Post-Mortem Examination Procedures for Meat.
3. Proposed Draft Annex on Microbiological Verification of Process Control of Meat Hygiene.
4. Discussion Paper on Hygiene Provisions for Processed Meat.

Public Meeting

At the January 15th public meeting, the agenda items, including U.S. positions, will be described and discussed. Attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions and offer comments. Comments may be sent to the FSIS Docket Room (see **ADDRESSES**). Written comments should state that they relate to activities of the 10th Session of the Codex Committee on Meat Hygiene (Docket #03–040N).

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS Web page located at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov.* The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information about Listserv, contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720–9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the ''Constituent Update'' page on the FSIS Web site at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm.* Click on the ''Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv'' link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done in Washington, DC on December 17, 2003.

F. Edward Scarbrough,

U.S. Manager for Codex Alimentarius.

[FR Doc. 03–31541 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–DM–P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

[Docket No. 03–041N]

Public Meeting on New Technology: The State of Food Safety Technologies To Enhance Public Health

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of public meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) will hold a public meeting on January 13, 2004, to discuss the development and use of new food safety technologies to enhance public health.

DATES: The public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2004, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the Doubletree Hotel, 1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102;

telephone (402) 346–7600. A tentative agenda will be available in the FSIS Docket Room and on the Internet at *http://www.fsis.usda.gov.* An official transcript of the meeting, when it becomes available, will be kept in the FSIS Docket Room, Room 102 Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20250–3700.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Perfecto Santiago, Executive Associate for Program Development, at (202) 205–0699. Registration for the meeting will be onsite. FSIS encourages attendees to pre-register as soon as possible by contacting Ms. Mary Harris of the FSIS Strategic Initiatives, Partnerships and Outreach Staff at (202) 690–6497 or by e-mail to *mary.harris@fsis.usda.gov* or fax (202) 690–6500. If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations are necessary, please contact Ms. Harris no later than December 31, 2003.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The 2003 FSIS Food Safety Vision Statement states that FSIS is implementing several new initiatives in order to continue towards its vision for food safety, including expediting the review and implementation of safe interventions at slaughter and processing plants. FSIS reviews new technologies that establishments plan to employ to ensure that the use of these technologies is consistent with agency regulations, and that the technologies will not adversely affect product safety, inspection procedures, or the safety of FSIS inspection program personnel. In August 2003, the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, United States Department of Agriculture, announced that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) had established a New Technology Staff to streamline the implementation of new technologies in an establishment's operations and to reduce the amount of time it takes the agency to review these new technologies. The New Technology Staff will place significant emphasis on fostering the development and use of new technologies that can help reduce pathogens on meat and poultry products.

One purpose of this public meeting is to promote and facilitate an exchange of the latest information on new and emerging technologies of public health significance. In particular, FSIS will use the meeting to explore how small and very small plants can avail themselves of these technologies in their operations. The Agency also intends to use the meeting to explore ways to reduce the time between the development and implementation of new technologies.

Main topics to be discussed at the public meeting are as follows:

(1) The Agency's new procedures and ways to expedite even further the process for making promising food safety technologies available for use, including ways that FSIS and stakeholders can work together to make emerging technology more widely available. The stakeholders include academia, state governments, industry, consumers, and other government agencies. (2) Emerging technologies that have been commercialized or will soon be commercialized. These new technologies include the following categories:

a. Pre-slaughter operation interventions that treat the animal before slaughter operations begin, such as hide treatment and bacteria exclusion in the animal;

b. Decontamination methods during slaughter and processing operations, such as antimicrobials being used on the carcass;

c. Sanitation interventions to decontaminate product contact surfaces or to treat the environment in the slaughter and processing areas to exclude or remove organisms such as Listeria monocytogenes.

Additional Public Notification

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Done in Washington, DC on December 17, 2003.

Garry L. McKee,

Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03–31542 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

RIN 0596–AB90

Forest Transportation System Analysis; Revisions to Road Management Policy

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice; correction.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service published on December 16, 2003 (68 FR 69986), a notice of issuance of a final directive to Forest Service Manual (FSM) Title 7700—Engineering, Chapter 7710—Transportation Atlas, Records, and Analysis, as Amendment 7700–2003–2. The notice contained an incorrect World Wide Web/Internet address.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Beighley or Nelson Hernandez, Engineering Staff, Forest Service, at (703) 605–4617 and (703) 605–4613, respectively.

CORRECTION: In the **Federal Register** issue of December 16, 2003, in FR Doc. 03–30871, page 69986, in the first column, correct the **ADDRESSES** caption to read:

ADDRESSES: The final directive, which includes a digest of the summary of changes and the revised directive text in its entirety, is available electronically via the World Wide Web/Internet at *http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsm/7700.* Single paper copies of the directive also are available by contacting the USDA Forest Service, Engineering Staff (Mail Stop 1101), 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250–1101.

Dated: December 18, 2003.

Jack L. Craven,

Acting Deputy Chief, National Forest System.

[FR Doc. 03–31654 Filed 12–22–03; 8:45 am]

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