

Rainbow Agar, and reacts specifically with O157 antiserum.

- *Confirmed Positive*—a biochemically-identified *Escherichia coli* isolate that is serologically or genetically determined to be “O157” that meets at least one of the following criteria:

- (1) Positive for Shiga toxin (ST) production
- (2) Positive for the Shiga toxin gene (stx)
- (3) Genetically determined to be “H7”

If an FSIS laboratory’s confirmatory test results are insufficient to allow identification of *E. coli* O157:H7, then the isolate is transferred to the Outbreaks Section of the Eastern Laboratory Microbiology Branch (OSEL), or to an FSIS reference laboratory, for further testing prior to issuance of a report of the test results.

State Programs and Foreign Government Programs

States that have their own meat inspection programs for meat products produced and transported solely within the State are required to have mandatory ante mortem and post mortem inspection, reinspection, and sanitation requirements that are at least equal to those in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661(a)(1)). Therefore, these States’ sampling procedures and testing methods for *E. coli* O157:H7 in raw beef products must be at least as sensitive as FSIS’ procedures and testing methods for *E. coli* O157:H7.

Foreign countries that are eligible to export meat products to the United States must apply inspection, sanitary, and other standards that are equivalent to those that FSIS applies to those products (21 U.S.C. 620). Thus, in evaluating a foreign country’s meat inspection system to determine the country’s eligibility to export products to the United States, FSIS considers whether the testing methods and procedures for *E. coli* O157:H7 that the country applies are equivalent to those that FSIS uses.

Establishment Testing or Testing on Behalf of Establishments (Non-FSIS Laboratories)

As discussed above, FSIS will use genetic testing to determine “O157” and “H7” identity in circumstances where atypical serology or other reactions are encountered. The genetic testing now used by FSIS laboratories for identification of certain strains of *E. coli* O157:H7 detected in FSIS laboratories may pose some difficulties for non-FSIS laboratories. Some non-FSIS laboratories may not be able to conduct genetic analyses because they do not

have the necessary resources. Moreover, the improper application of a less robust or inadequately validated genetic test by a laboratory might lead to a false negative or other misleading results.

FSIS believes that alternative criteria for confirmatory identification of *E. coli* O157:H7 or *E. coli* O157:H7-like bacteria may be appropriate if it is equivalent to the criteria used by FSIS. To be regarded as equivalent to the FSIS criteria, a test would have to detect all hypothetical *E. coli* O157:H7 strains, typical or variant, that would be identified using FSIS’ confirmatory testing procedures and criteria.

For establishment testing or testing on behalf of an establishment, FSIS recognizes that other criteria, while not used specifically by FSIS for identification of *E. coli* O157:H7, may be a significant and expedient indicator of the presence of *E. coli* O157:H7 in products. Such tests might be applied as rapid screening procedures to expedite analyses. If an establishment uses or contracts with a laboratory that uses such rapid screening procedures, and product is found positive by that test, FSIS expects the establishment to take appropriate corrective action and to ensure the proper disposition of adulterated products following a positive test result (9 CFR 417.3).

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it online through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2008_Notices_Index/. FSIS will also make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update, which is used to provide information regarding FSIS’ policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free electronic mail subscription service for industry, trade groups, consumer interest groups, health professionals, and other individuals who have asked to be included. The Update is also available on the FSIS Web page. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader and more diverse audience. In addition, FSIS offers an e-mail subscription service which provides automatic and customized access to selected food safety news and information. This service is available at

http://www.fsis.usda.gov/news_and_events/email_subscription/. Information is available about a variety of topics including recalls, exports, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and they have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC, on September 4, 2008.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

International Trade Administration

The Manufacturing Council: Meeting

AGENCY: International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Supplemental Notice of a Meeting.

SUMMARY: The Manufacturing Council will hold a meeting to deliberate for approval a draft letter of recommendation on Sustainable Manufacturing metrics.

DATES: September 23, 2008.

TIME: 4 p.m. (EDT).

ADDRESSES: Louise Slaughter Building Conference Room 2120, Rochester Institute of Technology, Center for Integrated Manufacturing Studies, 111 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: The Manufacturing Council Executive Secretariat, Room 4043, Washington, DC 20230 (*Phone:* 202–482–1369), or visit the Council’s Web site at <http://www.manufacturing.gov/council>.

Dated: September 11, 2008.

Kate Sigler,
Executive Secretary, The Manufacturing Council.

[FR Doc. E8–21572 Filed 9–11–08; 4:15 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

RIN 0648-XK41

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Meeting of the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and