DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service
[DOCKET NO. FSIS–2010–0033]

National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods; Re-establishment

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of re-chartering of Committee.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, this notice is announcing the re-chartering of the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods (NACMCF) by the Secretary of Agriculture on September 24, 2010. The Committee is being renewed in cooperation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The establishment of the Committee was recommended by a 1985 report of the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Food Protection, Subcommittee on Microbiological Criteria, “An Evaluation of the Role of Microbiological Criteria for Foods.” The current charter for the NACMCF is available for viewing on the NACMCF homepage at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSID/NACMCF/index.asp.

At this time the charter is being changed to add one individual affiliated with a consumer group to be appointed to the NACMCF as a representative member. This member will provide a consumer viewpoint to Committee work and will not be required to have a scientific background. The balance of the Committee membership will be scientists, and those who are not regular government employees will be appointed as special government employees.


SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

USDA is charged with administration and the enforcement of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA). The Secretary of HHS is charged with the administration and enforcement of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA). These Acts help protect consumers by assuring that food products are wholesome, not adulterated, and properly marked, labeled and packaged.

In order to assist the Secretaries in carrying out their responsibilities under the FMIA, PPIA, EPIA, and FFDCA, the NACMCF is being re-chartered. The Committee will be charged with providing recommendations to the Secretaries on the development of microbiological criteria by which the safety and wholesomeness of food can be assessed, including criteria for microorganisms that indicate whether foods have been adequately and appropriately processed.

Re-chartering of this Committee is necessary and in the public interest because of the need for external expert advice on the range of scientific and technical issues that must be addressed by the Federal sponsors in meeting their statutory responsibilities. The complexity of the issues to be addressed requires that the Committee is expected to meet one or more times annually.

Members will be appointed by the Secretary of USDA after consultation with the Secretary of HHS. Because of their interest in the matters to be addressed by this Committee, advice on membership appointments will be requested from the Department of Commerce’s National Marine Fisheries Service, the Department of Defense’s Veterinary Service Activity, and the Department of Health and Human Services’ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Background materials are available on the Web at the address noted above or by contacting Karen Thomas-Sharp.

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

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Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to ensure that the public and in particular minorities, women, and persons with disabilities, are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it on-line through the FSIS Web page located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/2010_Notices_Index/.

FSIS also will 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, FSIS public meetings, and other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents and stakeholders. The Update is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service consisting of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals who have requested to be included. The Update also is available on the FSIS Web page. Through Listserv and the Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, 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__Events/Email_Subscription/.
Options range from recalls, export information, regulations, directives, and notices. Customers can add or delete subscriptions themselves, and have the option to password protect their accounts.

Done at Washington, DC, on October 12, 2010.

Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Food Safety and Inspection Service

Availability of Compliance Guide for the Use of Video or Other Electronic Monitoring or Recording Equipment in Federally Inspected Establishments

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of availability and opportunity for comments.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing the availability of a compliance guide on the use of video or other electronic monitoring or recording equipment in federally inspected establishments. FSIS has posted this compliance guide on its Significant Guidance Documents Web page (http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Significant_Guidance/index.asp). FSIS is publishing this as draft guidance while pursuing OMB approval of information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act related to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures video records. FSIS is soliciting comments on this compliance guide. Once FSIS receives OMB approval on the information collection, it will reissue a final guide. At that time, FSIS may also make changes to the guide based on comments received on the draft guide.

DATES: Submit written comments by December 14, 2010.

ADDRESSES: FSIS invites interested persons to submit comments on this notice and the compliance guide. Comments may be submitted by either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: This Web site provides the ability to type short comments directly into the comment field on this Web page or attach a file for lengthier comments. Go to http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the online instructions at that site for submitting comments.

Mail, including floppy disks or CD-ROMS, and hand- or courier-delivered items: Send to Docket Clerk, U.S. Department of Agriculture, FSIS, Room 2–2127, George Washington Carver Center, 5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Mailstop 5272, Beltsville, MD 20705–5474.

Instructions: All items submitted by mail or electronic mail must include the Agency name and docket number FSIS–2010–0016. Comments received in response to this docket will be made available for public inspection and posted without change, including any personal information, to http://www.regulations.gov.

Docket: For access to background documents or to comments received, go to the FSIS Docket Room at the address listed above between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Isabel Arrington, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), by phone at (402) 344–5000 or by e-mail at Isabel.Arrington@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

This compliance guide provides information to industry to help it maintain compliance with Federal regulations, including humane treatment of livestock and the use of good commercial practices in poultry. FSIS is providing this draft guide to advise establishments that video or other electronic monitoring or recording equipment can be used in federally inspected establishments. This guide informs establishments of the Agency’s expectations if they decide to use this type of equipment to create records to meet the requirements of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points regulations, or the regulations governing Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures. In addition, this guide provides information on issues establishments should consider if they use this equipment for any other purpose, such as part of their food defense plans.

FSIS is publishing this draft guide while pursuing OMB approval of information collection under the Paperwork Reduction Act related to Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures video records. FSIS is requesting comments through a separate Federal Register document on this information collection. Until the Agency receives OMB approval for the information collection, the draft guide should not be viewed as authoritative.

Once FSIS receives OMB approval, it will issue a final guide. At that time, FSIS may also make changes to the guide based on comments received on the draft guide.

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_and_policies/2010_Notices_Index/index.asp.

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Done at Washington, DC, on September 15, 2010.

Alfred V. Almanza, Administrator.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Kootenai National Forest, Lincoln County, Montana; Grizzly Vegetation and Transportation Management Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.