This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Food Safety and Inspection Service


Shiga Toxin-Producing Escherichia coli in Certain Raw Beef Products

AGENCY: Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

ACTION: Public meeting: extension of comment period.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that it will hold a public meeting on the Agency’s implementation plans and methods for controlling non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli in raw, intact and non-intact beef products and product components. To provide stakeholders with ready access to the public meeting, FSIS will conduct the meeting by teleconference. This document provides information on the meeting.

In the Agency’s September 20, 2011, document announcing these plans and methods (76 FR 58157), FSIS asked for comments on a variety of issues (76 FR 58164). That comment period, which was originally scheduled to end on November 21, 2011, is now being extended and will end on December 21, 2011.

DATES: The teleconference will be held on December 1, 2011, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EST. Submit comments on or before December 21, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Registration: Pre-registration for this meeting is required. To pre-register, access the FSIS Web site, at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News/Metings_Events. We are asking that anyone interested in making a public comment during the teleconference indicate so on the registration form. Call-in information for the teleconference will be provided and will be available on the FSIS Web site at the link listed above.

Public Comment: In addition to this teleconference, interested persons may submit comments on the Agency’s implementation plans and methods for controlling non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli in raw, intact and non-intact beef products and product components on or before December 21, 2011, using either of the following methods:

Federal eRulemaking Portal: Go to http://www.regulations.gov and 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 U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), FSIS, OPPD, RIMD, Docket Clearance Unit, Patriots Plaza III, 8–164, 355 E Street SW., Washington, DC 20224–3221.

For further information contact: For technical information: Contact Daniel Engeljohn, Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development, at (202) 205–0495, or by fax at (202) 720–2025. For teleconference information: Contact Joan Lindenberger, Public Affairs Specialist, Congressional and Public Affairs Office, by telephone at (202) 720–6755, or by email to Joan.lindenberger@fsis.usda.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On September 20, 2011, FSIS published a document regarding non-O157 Shiga toxin-producing (STEC) Escherichia coli (E. coli). The document also requested comments regarding the Agency’s implementation plans and methods for controlling these pathogens in raw, non-intact beef products and product components (76 FR 58157). The comment period was set to end on November 21, 2011.

In the September document, FSIS announced that it intends to carry out verification procedures, including sampling and testing of manufacturing trim and other raw ground beef components, to ensure control of both E. coli O157:H7 and six other serogroups of STEC E. coli (O26, O45, O103, O111, O121, and O145). FSIS has determined that they, as well as O157:H7, are adulterants of non-intact raw beef products and product components within the meaning of the Federal Meat Inspection Act. The Agency also announced that it is publishing guidance for use in validating commercial pathogen detection test kits that may be capable of detecting the STEC of concern.

Finally, FSIS stated that it is planning a survey of its field personnel who are stationed in beef slaughtering and processing establishments, similar to the 2007 “checklist” survey, to determine the processing practices that are employed to reduce the likelihood of contamination of intact and non-intact beef product with these STEC.

In October 2011, the Agency announced its planned revision to the FSIS Microbiology Laboratory Guidebook (MLG) 5B, “Detection and Isolation of Non-O157 Shiga-Toxin Producing Escherichia coli (STEC) from Meat Products,” to expand laboratory testing for the detection of the six targeted serogroups. Chapters MLG 5B.01, MLG 5B Appendix 1.00, MLG 5B Appendix 2.00 and MLG Appendix 1.06 are now available at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Science/Microbiological_lab_guidebook/index.asp.

FSIS intends to use these methods, beginning March 5, 2012, in testing raw ground beef or in source material used to make ground beef, as well as mechanically tenderized steaks and roasts, for E. coli serogroups O26, O45, O103, O111, O121 and O145. If the Agency finds any of those serogroups in these types of products, it will prohibit the product from entering commerce. Like E. coli O157:H7, these serogroups can cause severe illness and even death; young children and the elderly are at highest risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention also identifies these particular serogroups as those responsible for the greatest numbers of non-O157 STEC illnesses.
hospitalizations and deaths in the
United States.

Beef slaughter and further processing
plants should now begin to assess their
food safety systems to ensure that they
are capable of controlling these
pathogens. Given FSIS’s planned course
of action, establishments that produce
the listed products should take steps to
ensure that the laboratory test they use
to verify the controls they employ is
effective in reliably detecting the
presence of these pathogens.

Establishments can rely upon the FSIS
laboratory methodology released in
October and updated on November 4,
2011, which has been demonstrated to
reliably identify these pathogens, or
they can use an equivalent methodology
of their choice.

II. Purpose of the Meeting and Agenda

To provide the public with an
opportunity to comment on the
Agency’s implementation plans and
methods for controlling non-O157 STEC
in raw, intact and non-intact beef
products and product components, FSIS
will hold a public meeting by
teleconference. The meeting will be
held on December 1, 2011. Submit
comments on or before December 21.
2011. The teleconference format is being
used to provide individuals with easier
access to the meeting, particularly those
who may lack the resources or time to
attend a meeting in person. Access to
the 800 number for the teleconference
number should be toll free for both
domestic and international callers.

Interested persons are encouraged to
join the teleconference at or near the
start time. FSIS may and the
teleconference early if participants are
no longer calling in to make comments.

III. Transcripts

As soon as the meeting transcripts are
available, they will be accessible at
http://www.regulations.gov. The
transcripts may be viewed at the FSIS
Docket Room, U.S. Department of
Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection
Service, Patriots Plaza III, 8–164, 355 E
Street SW., Washington, DC 20024–
3221.

Additional Public Notification

FSIS will announce this document
online through the FSIS Web page
located at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/
regulations & policies/
Federal_Register_Notices/index.asp.

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,
FSIS 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. In
addition, FSIS offers an electronic 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 to export information
to 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 November 18,
2011.

Alfred V. Almanza,
Administrator, FSIS.

[FR Doc. 2011–30271 Filed 11–18–11; 4:15 pm]
BILLING CODE 3140–OM–P

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Parts 429 and 430


RIN 1904–AB78

Energy Conservation Program: Test
Procedure for Microwave Ovens

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and
Renewable Energy, Department of
Energy.

ACTION: Supplemental notice of
proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of
Energy (DOE) published an interim final
rule on March 9, 2011, amending its test
procedures for microwave ovens under
the Energy Policy and Conservation Act
(EPCA) to provide for the measurement of
standby mode and off mode power
use by microwave ovens. Those
amendments incorporated into the DOE
test procedure provisions from the
International Electrotechnical
Commission (IEC) Standard 62301,
“Household electrical appliances—
Measurement of standby power,” First
Edition 2005–06 (IEC Standard 62301
(First Edition)). In addition, those
amendments adopted in the DOE test
procedure definitions of modes based on
the relevant provisions from the IEC
Draft International Standard (IEC
Standard 62301 (FDIS)), as well as
language to clarify application of these
provisions for measuring standby mode
and off mode power consumption in
microwave ovens. Just prior to
publication of the interim final rule, the
IEC replaced the First Edition of this
standard with the current Second
Edition. This supplemental notice of
proposed rulemaking proposes to
incorporate the latest edition of IEC
Standard 62301.

DATES: DOE will accept comments, data,
and information regarding this
supplemental notice of proposed
rulemaking (SNOPR) submitted no later
than December 23, 2011. See section V,
“Public Participation,” for details.

ADDRESSES: Any comments submitted
must identify the SNOPR on Test
Procedures for Microwave Ovens, and
provide docket number EERE–2008–
BT–TP–0011 and/or regulatory
information number (RIN) 1904–AB78.
Comments may be submitted using any
of the following methods:

1. Federal eRulemaking Portal:
http://www.regulations.gov. Follow the
instructions for submitting comments.

2. Email: MicroOven-2008-TP-
0011@ee.doe.gov. Include docket
number EERE–2008–BT–TP–0011 and/
or RIN 1904–AB78 in the subject line of
the message.

Department of Energy, Building
Technologies Program, Mailstop EE–2,
1000 Independence Avenue SW.,
Washington, DC 20585–0121. If
possible, please submit all items on a
compact disc (CD), in which case it is
not necessary to include printed copies.

4. Hand Delivery/Courier: Ms. Brenda
Edwards, U.S. Department of Energy,
Building Technologies Program, 6th
Floor, 950 L’Enfant Plaza SW.,
Washington, DC 20024. Telephone:
(202) 586–2945. If possible, please
submit all items on a CD, in which case
it is not necessary to include printed
copies.

For detailed instructions on
submitting comments and additional
information on the rulemaking process,
see section V of this document (Public
Participation).

Docket: The docket is available for
review at http://www.regulations.gov,
including Federal Register notices,
framework documents, public meeting
attendee lists and transcripts,
comments, and other supporting
documents/materials. All documents in
the docket are listed in the http://
www.regulations.gov/index. However,
not all documents listed in the index
may be publicly available, such as
information that is exempt from public
disclosure.