

Group II: New Regulations/Directives/Notices: informing the industry

Since the HACCP regulation was implemented there have been many new guidance documents released, additions to the regulations and changes in policy. We want to learn how small plant operators are informed of these changes, how those who get information to the industry through training and consulting are informed and how to improve information delivery.

When engaging in this discussion, consider how you were informed and trained (or, if you developed and provided training) and how successful you were at implementing new activities in your plant to address (for example):

- *Listeria monocytogenes* Rule (regulation)
- *E. coli* O157:H7 (directives)
- Prohibition of the Use of Specified Risk Materials for Human Food and Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle (Jul 13, 2007) (regulation)
- Increased Verification of Humane Handling Requirements in Livestock Slaughter Establishments (notice)

Availability of new information

1. How do you find out about new Regulations/Directives/Notices?
2. How did you find out about:
 - the *Listeria* regulation?
 - The *E. coli* O157:H7 directives?
 - BSE?
3. Review web site resources with computer. Are you aware of these? Do you use them? Why or why not?
 - Ask FSIS
 - Small Plant News, newsletter
 - Location of notices, directives, etc.
 - Industry resources (such as the AAMP [American Association of Meat Processors], NAMP [North American Meat Processors] or GMA [Grocery Manufacturers Association] or (AMI) American Meat Institute
4. How would you most like to receive information about new regulations, directives, policies, etc.?

Compliance Assistance

5. What do you think makes it more difficult for small plants to comply with new directives, regulations or the HACCP rule than for large plants?
6. Tell us what you know and what you think about the FSIS Small plant Contact/Coordinator program.
7. Are you familiar with FSIS Compliance Guides?
(go to: http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&_Policies/Compliance_Guides_Index/index.asp)
 - Are they useful?
 - Do operators need more information?
 - What type of information do operators need?
8. Where can small plant operators go for more assistance to help them comply with new directives/regulations?
9. Are Land Grant universities/Extension programs providing information and compliance assistance in your state? If yes, what?
10. Are industry associations or consultants providing information and compliance assistance? If yes, what?

Training

11. Are there sufficient opportunities for training when new regulations/directives/notices are administered? Are there regional differences?
12. Have you ever attended a regulatory education workshop or participated in a regulatory education web seminar? If yes, were they effective/worth your time/useful?
13. Would you be interested in providing/receiving training beyond basic HACCP (perhaps in response to new rules or notices and their compliance guidelines)?
14. In what form would you like to receive this training? (workshop, web or internet based, mail course)
15. What are the barriers that keep small plant personnel from participating in additional training opportunities?
16. Would you consider participating in (or offering, if you are at trainer) a training session for any of these topics?
 - Sanitation (in depth)
 - Good Manufacturing Practices
 - BSE
 - *Listeria* control
 - *E. coli* O157:H7
 - Traceback/tracking systems
 - Training your employees
 - Food plant defense/bioterrorism issues
 - Crisis management/recalls
 - New guidance and/or regulations
17. Is there anything else you would like to share regarding how we can be informed about new FSIS rules/directives/notices/etc.?