

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

39-09

5/4/09

ELECTRONIC SAMPLE (eSAMPLE) PHASE I - REPORTING IN-PLANT FAST ANTIMICROBIAL SCREEN TEST (FAST) RESULTS

I. PURPOSE

This notice informs inspection program personnel (IPP) of changes in how they are to report the FAST Antimicrobial Screen Test (FAST) in-plant test results. The FAST Antimicrobial Screen Test Worksheet, FSIS Form 6600-7, will no longer be used to report FAST in-plant test results. The FAST in-plant test results will be recorded and sent electronically using the Electronic Sample (eSample) computer application.

II. BACKGROUND

FSIS has developed the eSample computer application to replace the paper-based data collection forms used for reporting in-plant test data. The first phase (Phase I) of eSample replaces the worksheet for the FAST in-plant test results (FSIS Form 6600-7). The Agency plans to replace the FAST in-plant test with the Kidney Inhibition Swab (KIS) Screen Test. The Agency will publish an FSIS Notice informing IPP of the phase-in of the KIS Screen Test when it is ready to be deployed.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

IPP will receive an "FSIS Software Updates" email with instructions for downloading and accessing the eSample application. When IPP receive the email, they are to install and begin using eSample to record FAST in-plant test results as soon as possible, but no later than May 11, 2009.


After the eSample application has been installed, users can access eSample from their computer desktop by clicking the eSample icon or by selecting "Start" / "FSIS Applications" / "Inspection Assignments" / "eSample."

The on-line user's guide for Phase I of eSample will be available by selecting the "Help" / "User Guide" option from the eSample Main Menu. Instructions for performing

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 6/1/2010

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basic tasks will be found in the eSample application by accessing the “How Do I...?” document on the “Help” menu. Further help is available by clicking the “Help” button  or by referring to ToolTips.

NOTE: During the phase-in of eSample, some on-screen buttons will be “grayed out” and will not work if clicked. These buttons contain features that will be included in subsequent phases of the eSample application.

When IPP perform an in-plant FAST test, they are to open the eSample application and record the test data as described in the user guide. The data will be saved after each test is entered, and when the computer is synchronized, the test data will be copied to the Headquarters consolidated database. Daily synchronization is required to pick up all new data. It is not necessary to maintain a hard copy of the data. However, a copy of the data can be printed by clicking on the Reports drop down menu.

NOTE: Until they receive the “FSIS Software Updates” email and successfully install the eSample application, IPP are to continue using FSIS Forms 6600-7 to report FAST in-plant test results and are to continue mailing the forms to the Financial Processing Center for data entry. All FAST tests performed after May 11, 2009, and all KIS tests, are to be recorded in eSample.

IV. DATA ANALYSIS

After implementation, the Office of Public Health Science (OPHS) will analyze the FAST data on a monthly basis for six months. The results of the six month analysis will determine the frequency of subsequent analysis. OPHS will publish the results of the analysis in the annual Red Book publication. The analysis will list the number of samples taken and the number violative for each compound or compound class of interest. OPHS will also conduct ad hoc analyses of the FAST data to inform sampling policy development.

V. FURTHER ASSISTANCE

For technical assistance in accessing or using eSample, please call the FSIS Service desk at 1-800-473-9135 or complete a Footprints request for service at <http://service/footprints>.

For questions regarding in-plant testing, please contact the Policy Development Division through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935.



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