

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**Food Safety and Inspection Service****Agricultural Marketing Service**

[Docket No. 97-045F]

7 CFR Part 59**9 CFR Chapter III****Agency Responsibilities, Organization, and Terminology****AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.**ACTION:** Final rule with an opportunity to comment.

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is amending its regulations to describe, in part 300, the Agency's responsibilities and current organization. This rule also redesignates regulations adopted under the Egg Products Inspection Act and transfers them to part 590 of FSIS's regulations. FSIS is providing an opportunity for members of the public to submit comments on the clarity and technical accuracy of the resultant regulations.

DATES: December 31, 1998. Submit comments by February 1, 1999.

ADDRESSES: Submit one original and two copies of written comments to FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket No. 97-045F, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments submitted will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Judith Neibrief, Regulations Development and Analysis Division, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Washington, DC 20250-3700; (202) 720-3886.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is responsible for carrying out various functions of the Department of Agriculture. Chief among these are the administration of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601, *et seq.*), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451, *et seq.*), and the Egg Products Inspection Act (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031, *et seq.*). Each of these statutes includes government inspection as part of a regulatory system to protect the health and welfare of consumers by preventing the distribution of livestock products, poultry products, and egg products that

are unwholesome, otherwise adulterated, or misbranded.

The Agency's primary objective in this rulemaking is to amend chapter III of title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR chapter III) so that it contains, in part 300, FSIS's current organizational structure. With the concurrence of the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), this rule also redesignates the EPIA regulations in part 59 of title 7 of the Code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR part 59) and transfers them to part 590 of 9 CFR chapter III. Several years ago, the Secretary of Agriculture delegated to the Administrator of FSIS all functions in the EPIA other than the shell egg surveillance program, voluntary laboratory analyses of egg products, and the voluntary grading program (7 CFR 2.53(a)(2)(iii)), which continue to be delegated to the Administrator of AMS (7 CFR 2.79(a)(8)(xxiv)). In recognition of the current allocation of responsibilities within USDA, AMS recently issued a rule that duplicated, redesignated, and amended the EPIA regulations to include pertinent portions in 7 CFR part 57, for AMS, and in part 59, for FSIS (63 FR 69968, December 17, 1998). Except for several changes that reflect FSIS's assumption of responsibility for administering various provisions of the EPIA (see amendments to redesignated §§ 590.1 and 590.5), this rule does not amend provisions of the EPIA regulations.

Because the Agency's regulations address more than just the inspection provisions of the FMIA and the PPIA and, as a result of this rule, also include the EPIA regulations, FSIS is removing the phrase "MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION" from the heading of chapter III of 9 CFR. FSIS also is consolidating current subchapters A, B, and C of 9 CFR chapter III into one subchapter, subchapter A, and modifying the heading of current subchapter A to indicate its new scope: Agency organization and terminology, mandatory meat and poultry products inspection, and voluntary inspection and certification. To accommodate the EPIA regulations, FSIS is adding subchapter I—"Egg Products Inspection Act".

Part 300 and Redesignated §§ 590.1 and 590.5

Part 300—"Agency Mission and Organization"—consists of a description of the part (§ 300.1), a statement about FSIS's responsibilities (§ 300.2), FSIS's organizational structure and terminology (§ 300.3), and access provisions (§ 300.6).

Paragraph (a) of § 300.2 references the Department's delegation of authority regulations (7 CFR 2.7, 2.18, and 2.53) for FSIS's responsibilities, replacing an obsolete reference in § 381.3(a) for the PPIA. In exercising its delegated functions, FSIS administers regulations that implement provisions of the statutes listed in paragraph (b) of § 300.2.

Section 300.3 includes a description of the Agency's headquarters and field structure. As reorganized, the Agency's field structure consists of 18 district offices¹ and a technical service center² (§ 300.3(c)). Each district office, under the direction of a District Manager, manages a farm-to-table food safety program of regulatory oversight and inspection in a district consisting of a State or several States and territories (as specified in paragraph (c)(1)). These offices administer domestic and import inspection activities. They replaced regional offices (which included inspection and compliance area offices) and import field offices (as specified in the appendix to this rule).

The Technical Service Center provides technical guidance, review, and training on regulatory requirements (as specified in paragraph (c)(2)). These activities previously were conducted at regional and headquarters offices.

Section 300.6 consolidates various access provisions of the FMIA and the PPIA. Paragraph (a) covers access by representatives of the Secretary. Paragraph (a)(1) replaces the last sentences of §§ 306.3 and 381.33 and provides for access to places of business

¹ The locations of the district offices are as follows: Alameda, CA (620 Central Avenue, Building 2C, Alameda, CA 94501); Albany, NY (230 Washington Avenue Extension, Albany, NY 12203); Atlanta, GA (100 Alabama Street, SW, Building 1924, Suite 3R90, Atlanta, GA 30303); Boston, MA (411 Waverley Oaks Road, Building 3, Suite 331, Waltham, MA 02452); Boulder, CO (665 South Broadway, Suite B, Boulder, CO 80303); Chicago, IL (1919 South Highland Avenue, Suite 115C, Lombard, IL 60148); Dallas, TX (1100 Commerce Street, Room 5F41, Dallas, TX 75242); Des Moines, IA (11338 Aurora Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50322); Beltsville, MD (5601 Sunnyside Avenue, Suite 1-2288B, Beltsville, MD 20705); Jackson, MS (715 South Pear Orchard Road, Suite 101, Ridgeland, MS 39157); Lawrence, KS (4920 West 15th Street, Lawrence, KS 66049); Madison, WI (2810 Crossroads Drive, Suite 3500, Madison, WI 53718); Minneapolis, MN (Butler Square West, Suite 989-C, 100 North 6th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55403); Philadelphia, PA (701 Market Street, 2-B South, Philadelphia, PA 19106); Pickerington, OH (155 East Columbus Street, Pickerington, OH 43147); Raleigh, NC (6020 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27609); Salem, OR (530 Center Street, NE, Mezzanine, Salem, OR 97301); Springdale, AR (Country Club Center, Building B, Suite 201, 4700 South Thompson, Springdale, AR 72764). FSIS expects to close the Boston office in 1999.

² The address of the FSIS Technical Service Center is 1299 Farnam Street, Suite 300 Landmark Center, Omaha, NE 68102.

regulated under the FMIA or the PPIA. Paragraph (a)(2) references part 590 for access to plants that process egg products and to other places of business subject to regulation under the EPIA.

Paragraph (b) of § 300.6 is limited to places of business regulated under the FMIA or the PPIA. (For access under the EPIA, see also redesignated §§ 590.132, 590.200, and 590.660.) Paragraph (b)(1) addresses access to establishments that prepare livestock products or process poultry products, replacing the first sentence of § 306.2 and § 381.32 and provisions of § 306.3 and § 381.33. Paragraph (b)(2) addresses access and examinations pursuant to section 202 of the FMIA or section 11(b) of the PPIA (21 U.S.C. 460(b) and 642). It replaces the first sentences of §§ 320.4 and 381.178 (Access to and inspection of records, facilities and inventory; copying and sampling). (For the convenience of the reader, FSIS is referencing § 300.6 in §§ 306.2, 320.4, 381.32, and 381.178.)

Final Rule With Opportunity for Comment

FSIS has determined that the notice and comment and delayed effective date requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(b) and (d)) do not apply to this rule. The amendments made by this rule reflect the Agency's current responsibilities, and the organization through which it carries out those responsibilities, and technical and minor changes in the organization of the Agency's regulations and terminology used in those regulations. Therefore, FSIS, has, for good cause, found that notice and public procedure thereon are unnecessary, and it is issuing these amendments as a final rule, effective upon publication.

Nevertheless, the Agency recognizes that attaining its objective has necessitated a large number of amendments. Therefore, FSIS is providing members of the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the clarity and the technical accuracy of the amended regulations. The Agency requests that those with comments submit them during the 30 days that follow publication of the rule.

Executive Order 12866

The changes in this rule are organizational and technical. Their adoption does not affect the costs to regulated establishments or to FSIS, except to the extent that improving the Agency's organization, providing the public with current information on how the Agency operates, and updating, consolidating, and clarifying Agency

terminology should increase FSIS's efficiency and improve the delivery of inspection services to members of the regulated industries. FSIS has determined that this rule is not a significant regulatory action under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 12866.

Compliance With Regulatory Flexibility Act of 1996

The Administrator has determined that, for purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601), this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities.

Executive Order 12988

This rule has been reviewed under Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform. In this rule: (1) all State and local laws and regulations that are inconsistent with this rule will be preempted; (2) no retroactive effect will be given to this rule; and (3) no administrative proceedings will be required before parties may file suit in court challenging this rule.

List of Subjects in 7 CFR Part 59

Eggs and egg products, Exports, Food grades and standards, Food labeling, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

List of Subjects in 9 CFR Chapter III

Part 300

Meat and meat products, Poultry and poultry products.

Part 590

Eggs and egg products, Exports, Food labeling, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

For the reasons set forth above, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, with the concurrence of the Agricultural Marketing Service, is redesignating and transferring part 59 of 7 CFR chapter I, and it is amending 9 CFR chapter III as follows:

7 CFR CHAPTER I

9 CFR CHAPTER III

1. Part 59 of 7 CFR chapter I is redesignated as part 590 of 9 CFR and transferred to 9 CFR chapter III, as set out in the following table:

7 CFR Part 59	9 CFR Part 590
Definitions	
§ 59.1	§ 590.1
§ 59.5	§ 590.5

7 CFR Part 59	9 CFR Part 590
Administration	
§ 59.10	§ 590.10
§ 59.13	§ 590.13
§ 59.17	§ 590.17
§ 59.18	§ 590.18
Scope of Inspection	
§ 59.20	§ 590.20
§ 59.22	§ 590.22
§ 59.24	§ 590.24
§ 59.26	§ 590.26
§ 59.28	§ 590.28
Relation to Other Authorities	
§ 59.30	§ 590.30
§ 59.35	§ 590.35
Eggs and Egg Products Not Intended for Human Food	
§ 59.40	§ 590.40
§ 59.45	§ 590.45
Refrigeration of Shell Eggs	
§ 59.50	§ 590.50
Exemptions	
§ 59.100	§ 590.100
§ 59.105	§ 590.105
Performance of Service	
§ 59.110	§ 590.100
§ 59.112	§ 590.112
§ 59.114	§ 590.114
§ 59.116	§ 590.116
§ 59.118	§ 590.118
§ 59.119	§ 590.119
§ 59.120	§ 590.120
§ 59.122	§ 590.122
§ 59.124	§ 590.124
§ 59.126	§ 590.126
§ 59.128	§ 590.128
§ 59.130	§ 590.130
§ 59.132	§ 590.132
§ 59.134	§ 590.134
§ 59.136	§ 590.136
Application for Service	
§ 59.140	§ 590.140
§ 59.142	§ 590.142
§ 59.144	§ 590.144
§ 59.146	§ 590.146
§ 59.148	§ 590.148
Inauguration of Service	
§ 59.150	§ 590.150
§ 59.155	§ 590.155
Denial of Service	
§ 59.160	§ 590.160
§ 59.161	§ 590.161

7 CFR Part 59	9 CFR Part 590
Records and Related Requirements for Eggs and Egg Products Handlers and Related Industries	
§ 59.200	§ 590.200
§ 59.220	§ 590.220
Administrative Detention	
§ 59.240	§ 590.240
Appeal of an Inspection or Decision	
§ 59.300	§ 590.300
§ 59.310	§ 590.310
§ 59.320	§ 590.320
§ 59.330	§ 590.330
§ 59.340	§ 590.340
§ 59.350	§ 590.350
§ 59.360	§ 590.360
§ 59.370	§ 590.370
Certificates	
§ 59.400	§ 590.400
§ 59.402	§ 590.402
§ 59.404	§ 590.404
§ 59.406	§ 590.406
Identifying and Marking Product	
§ 59.410	§ 590.410
§ 59.411	§ 590.411
§ 59.412	§ 590.412
§ 59.414	§ 590.414
§ 59.415	§ 590.415
§ 59.417	§ 590.417
§ 59.418	§ 590.418
§ 59.419	§ 590.419
Inspection, Reinspection, Condemnation, and Retention	
§ 59.420	§ 590.420
§ 59.422	§ 590.422
§ 59.424	§ 590.424
§ 59.426	§ 590.426
Entry of Materials Into Official Egg Products Plants	
§ 59.430	§ 590.430
§ 59.435	§ 590.435
§ 59.440	§ 590.440
Sanitary, Processing, and Facility Requirements	
§ 59.500	§ 590.500
§ 59.502	§ 590.502
§ 59.504	§ 590.504
§ 59.506	§ 590.506
§ 59.508	§ 590.508
§ 59.510	§ 590.510
§ 59.515	§ 590.515
§ 59.516	§ 590.516
§ 59.520	§ 590.520
§ 59.522	§ 590.522
§ 59.530	§ 590.530
§ 59.532	§ 590.532
§ 59.534	§ 590.534
§ 59.536	§ 590.536
§ 59.538	§ 590.538
§ 59.539	§ 590.539
§ 59.540	§ 590.540

7 CFR Part 59	9 CFR Part 590
§ 59.542	§ 590.542
§ 59.544	§ 590.544
§ 59.546	§ 590.546
§ 59.547	§ 590.547
§ 59.548	§ 590.548
§ 59.549	§ 590.549
§ 59.550	§ 590.550
§ 59.552	§ 590.552
§ 59.560	§ 590.560
§ 59.570	§ 590.570
§ 59.575	§ 590.575

Laboratory	
§ 59.580	§ 590.580

Exempted Egg Products Plants	
§ 59.600	§ 590.600
§ 59.610	§ 590.610
§ 59.620	§ 590.620
§ 59.630	§ 590.630
§ 59.640	§ 590.640
§ 59.650	§ 590.650
§ 59.660	§ 590.660
§ 59.670	§ 590.670
§ 59.680	§ 590.680

Identification of Restricted Eggs or Egg Products Not Intended for Human Consumption	
§ 59.800	§ 590.800
§ 59.840	§ 590.840
§ 59.860	§ 590.860

Imports	
§ 59.900	§ 590.900
§ 59.905	§ 590.905
§ 59.910	§ 590.910
§ 59.915	§ 590.915
§ 59.920	§ 590.920
§ 59.925	§ 590.925
§ 59.930	§ 590.930
§ 59.935	§ 590.935
§ 59.940	§ 590.940
§ 59.945	§ 590.945
§ 59.950	§ 590.950
§ 59.955	§ 590.955
§ 59.956	§ 590.956
§ 59.960	§ 590.960
§ 59.965	§ 590.965
§ 59.970	§ 590.970
Authority: 21 U.S.C. 1031–1056.	Authority: 21 U.S.C. 1031–1056

2. In redesignated part 590, each internal reference to a section of part 59 is revised as set out in the preceding redesignation table.

3. The heading of 9 CFR chapter III is amended by removing “MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION,”.

4. Parts 350 through 381 are transferred to subchapter A; the headings of subchapters B and C are removed and reserved; and the heading of subchapter A is revised to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER A—AGENCY ORGANIZATION AND TERMINOLOGY; MANDATORY MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS INSPECTION AND VOLUNTARY INSPECTION AND CERTIFICATION

5. Redesignated part 590 is designated as subchapter I, and a heading for subchapter I is added to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I—EGG PRODUCTS INSPECTION ACT

6. In subchapter A, part 300 is added to read as follows:

PART 300—AGENCY MISSION AND ORGANIZATION

Sec.

300.1 Purpose.

300.2 FSIS responsibilities.

300.3 FSIS organization.

300.6 Access to establishments and other places of business.

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 451–470, 601–695, 1031–1056; 7 U.S.C. 138–138i, 450, 1621–1627, 1901–1906; 7 CFR 2.7, 2.18, 2.53.

§ 300.1 Purpose.

This part describes the duties and organization of the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), an agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

§ 300.2 FSIS responsibilities.

(a) [Reserved]

(b) *Implementing regulations.* This chapter of title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR chapter III) includes, in addition to administrative rules, rules and regulations that implement provisions of the following statutes:

(1) The Federal Meat Inspection Act, as amended (FMIA) (21 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*), except provisions pertaining to the inspection and certification of the condition of animals for export, and related legislation;

(2) The Poultry Products Inspection Act, as amended (PPIA) (21 U.S.C. 451 *et seq.*);

(3) The Egg Products Inspection Act, as amended (EPIA) (21 U.S.C. 1031 *et seq.*), except for the shell egg surveillance program, voluntary laboratory analyses of egg products, and the voluntary grading program;

(4) The Humane Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901–1906);

(5) The Talmadge-Aiken Act (7 U.S.C. 450), with respect to cooperation with States in the administration of the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act;

(6) The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627), relating to voluntary inspection of poultry and edible products thereof; voluntary inspection and certification of technical animal fat; certified products

for dogs, cats, and other carnivora; voluntary inspection of rabbits and edible products thereof; and voluntary inspection and certification of edible meat and other products; and

(7) The National Laboratory Accreditation Program (7 U.S.C. 138–138i) with respect to laboratories accredited only for pesticide residue analysis in meat and poultry products.

§ 300.3 FSIS organization.

(a) *General.* The organization of FSIS reflects the agency's primary regulatory responsibilities: implementation of the FMIA, the PPIA, and the EPIA.

(b) *Headquarters.* FSIS has four principal components or offices, each of which is under the direction of a Deputy Administrator. The Deputy Administrators, along with their staffs,

and the Administrator, along with the Office of the Administrator and three staff offices that report to the Administrator, are located at U.S. Department of Agriculture headquarters in Washington, DC.

(1) *Program offices.* FSIS's headquarters offices are the Office of Public Health and Science, which provides scientific analysis, advice, data, and recommendations on matters involving public health and science; the Office of Management, which provides centralized administrative and support services; the Office of Policy, Program Development and Evaluation, which develops and recommends domestic and international policy activities; and the Office of Field Operations, which manages regulatory oversight and

inspection (see paragraph (c) of this section).

(2) *Staff offices.* The Administrator's staff offices are the Food Safety Executive Management and Coordination Staff, the Legislative Liaison Staff, and the Food Safety Education and Communications Staff.

(c) *Field.* FSIS's field structure consists of eighteen district offices and a technical center.

(1) *District offices.* Each district office, under the direction of a District Manager, manages a farm-to-table food safety program of regulatory oversight and inspection in a district consisting of a State or several States and territories.

The locations of the district offices and the districts' geographic boundaries are as follows:

<i>Alameda, CA</i>	California.
<i>Salem, OR</i>	Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Northern Mariana Islands, Oregon, and Washington.
<i>Boulder, CO</i>	Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah.
<i>Minneapolis, MN</i>	Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.
<i>Des Moines, IA</i>	Iowa and Nebraska.
<i>Lawrence, KS</i>	Kansas and Missouri.
<i>Springdale, AR</i>	Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma.
<i>Dallas, TX</i>	Texas.
<i>Madison, WI</i>	Michigan and Wisconsin.
<i>Chicago, IL</i>	Illinois and Indiana.
<i>Pickerington, OH</i>	Kentucky, Ohio, and West Virginia.
<i>Philadelphia, PA</i>	Pennsylvania.
<i>Albany, NY</i>	New Jersey and New York.
<i>Boston, MA</i>	Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virgin Islands.
<i>Greenbelt, MD</i>	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.
<i>Raleigh, NC</i>	North Carolina and South Carolina.
<i>Atlanta, GA</i>	Florida and Georgia.
<i>Jackson, MS</i>	Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee.

(2) *Technical Service Center.* The Technical Service Center, which is located in Omaha, Nebraska, provides technical guidance, review, and training on the interpretation and application of regulatory requirements.

§ 300.6 Access to establishments and other places of business.

(a) *General.* Upon presentation of credentials—

(1) Persons subject to provisions of the FMIA or the PPIA must afford representatives of the Secretary access to establishments that slaughter or otherwise prepare livestock products or process poultry products and to other

places of business subject to regulation thereunder; and

(2) Persons subject to provisions of the EPIA must afford representatives of the Secretary access as specified in part 590 of this chapter.

(b) [Reserved]

Done at Washington, DC, on December 22, 1998.

Thomas J. Billy,
Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Concurrence in the transfer of 7 CFR part 59 on December 22, 1998.

Enrique E. Figueroa,
Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Appendix—Field Structure

Note: This appendix will not appear in the Code of Federal Regulations.

Under FSIS's current field structure, eighteen district offices have replaced regional offices and import field offices, as specified below.

Region	District
DOMESTIC PRODUCTS	
<i>Northeastern:</i>	
Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont	Boston, MA
Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia (except for Northwestern part)	Greenbelt, MD

Region	District
New Jersey and New York	Albany, NY
Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA
<i>Southeastern</i>	
Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee	Jackson, MS
Florida and Georgia	Atlanta, GA
Kentucky and West Virginia	Pickerington, OH
North Carolina and South Carolina	Raleigh, NC
Virginia (Northwestern)	Greenbelt, MD
Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands	Boston, MA
<i>North Central:</i>	
Illinois and Indiana	Chicago, IL
Iowa	Des Moines, IA
Michigan and Wisconsin	Madison, WI
Minnesota	Minneapolis, MN
Ohio	Pickerington, OH
<i>Southwestern:</i>	
Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma	Springdale, AR
Kansas and Missouri	Lawrence, KS
Nebraska	Des Moines, IA
New Mexico	Boulder, CO
Texas	Dallas, TX
<i>Western:</i>	
Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon, Northern Mariana Islands, and Washington	Salem, OR
Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, and Utah	Boulder, CO
California	Alameda, CA
Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming	Minneapolis, MN
IMPORTS	
<i>IFO:</i>	
New York, NY (#2)	Albany, NY
Philadelphia, PA (#3)	Philadelphia, PA
Miami, FL (#6)	Atlanta, GA
Long Beach, CA (#8)	Alameda, CA
Tacoma, WA (#9)	Salem, OR
Detroit, MI (#10)	Madison, WI

[FR Doc. 98-34358 Filed 12-30-98; 10:17 am]

BILLING CODE 3410-DM-P