

# SAFEGUARDS

SGS CONSUMER TESTING SERVICES

FOOD

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## USDA REQUIRES HOLD AND TEST PROGRAM – EFFECTIVE 8 FEBRUARY 2013

On 7 December 2012 United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA FSIS) announced effective 8 February 2013 that all producers of non-intact raw beef and ready to eat products that contain meat or poultry that are sampled by the USDA, are to hold all shipments until the products pass FSIS testing for foodborne adulterants<sup>1</sup>. This does not apply to products that are sampled and tested by independent laboratories.

This new policy<sup>2</sup> requires all official establishments and importers of record to maintain control of these products until the FSIS has tested the products and provide documentation that the products have no adulterants. Non-intact raw beef or raw beef for non-intact raw beef is to be tested by FSIS for shiga-toxin producing *Escherichia coli*. Ready to eat products are to be tested by the FSIS for common pathogens, such as *Salmonella* and *Listeria monocytogenes*.

FSIS stated that the policy would also apply to livestock carcasses subject to FSIS testing for veterinary drugs such as antibiotics, sulfonamides, or avermectins or the feed additive carbadox. FSIS will not issue a mark of inspection until testing is performed. Without a mark of inspection these products cannot legally enter US commerce.

SGS is committed to keeping you informed of regulatory news and developments. Leveraging our global network of laboratories and food experts, SGS provides a comprehensive range of food safety and quality solutions including analytical testing,

audits, certifications, inspections and technical support. We continually invest in our world class testing capabilities and state-of-the-art technology to help you reduce risks, and improve food safety and quality. For further information please visit our website [www.foodsafety.sgs.com](http://www.foodsafety.sgs.com).

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News\\_&\\_Events/NR\\_120712\\_01/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&_Events/NR_120712_01/index.asp)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Frame/FrameRedirect.asp?main=http://www.fsis.usda.gov/OPPD/Er/dad/FRPubs/2005-0044FN.htm>

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