

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES
MEAT SAFETY ASSURANCE UNIT
AUSTIN, TX

<h1 style="margin:0">MSA DIRECTIVE</h1>	5000.8	12/18/13
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VERIFYING COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR WRITTEN RECALL PROCEDURES

I. PURPOSE

This directive provides instructions for inspectors in charge (IIC) to follow when verifying that official establishments that produce meat or poultry products have prepared and are maintaining required written recall procedures.

II. BACKGROUND

A. On May 8, 2012, FSIS published the [final rule](#), “Requirements for Official Establishments to Notify FSIS of Adulterated or Misbranded Product, Prepare and Maintain Written Recall Procedures, and Document Certain Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points System Plan Reassessments” (77 FR 26929). Among other things, the rule requires official establishments to prepare and maintain written procedures for the recall of meat and poultry products produced and shipped by the establishment. The regulations require that the written procedures specify how the official establishment will decide whether to conduct a product recall, and what the establishment will do should it decide that one is necessary (9 CFR [418.3](#)). Official establishments are not required to submit their recall procedures to MSA. However, they are required to make the written recall procedures available to IIC for review and copying if necessary (9 CFR [418.4](#)).

III. IIC RESPONSIBILITIES

A. IIC are to verify that official establishments that produce meat and poultry products have written recall procedures.

B. At least once a year, IIC are to perform a directed Other Inspection Requirements task under the Public Health Information System (PHIS) to verify that establishments have written recall procedures.

1. If IIC determine that an establishment has written recall procedures, they are to document in PHIS that they performed the task, and that the establishment complies with 9 CFR [418.3](#).
2. If IIC determine that the establishment does not have written recall procedures, they are to document the noncompliance in PHIS on a noncompliance record, citing 9 CFR [418.3](#).

IV. ENFORCEMENT, INVESTIGATIONS AND ANALYSIS OFFICER (EIAO) RESPONSIBILITIES

A. When conducting food safety assessments (FSAs), EIAOs are to assess whether the establishment has written recall procedures that specify:

1. How the official establishment will decide whether to conduct a product recall, and
2. The procedures the official establishment will follow should it decide that a recall is necessary.

B. EIAOs are to follow the methodology in MSA Directive 5100.1, *Enforcement, Investigations and Analysis Officer (EIAO) Food Safety Assessment Methodology*, when assessing the establishment's written recall procedures.

C. If EIAOs determine that the establishment did not specify in its written recall procedures how it will decide whether to conduct a recall, or how it will effect a recall, they are to recommend to the Cuircit Manager that the IIC perform a directed Other Inspection Requirements task in PHIS and document a noncompliance with 9 CFR [418.3](#).

V. QUESTIONS

Questions regarding this Directive shall be directed to the MSA Central Office through the supervisory chain-of-command.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dr. Johnson". The signature is cursive and somewhat stylized, with a large initial "D" and "J".

Dr. Howard C. "Butch" Johnson, DVM, MS, DACVPM
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