



Food Safety and Inspection Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit Compliance and Investigations Division

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Background



- The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is the public health agency in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) responsible for ensuring that the nation's commercial supply of meat, poultry, and egg products, whether domestic or imported, is safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.
- FSIS ensures food safety through the authorities of the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, as well as humane animal handling through the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act.

Organization



- Department Level- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- Agency Level- Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS)
- Program Level- Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit (OIEA)
- Division Level- Compliance and Investigations Division (CID)

Office of Investigation, Enforcement and Audit (OIEA)



- Conducts surveillance and investigation of regulated and in-commerce meat, poultry and egg products facilities
- Investigates foodborne illness outbreaks; response to natural disaster and intentional contamination events
- Execution and application of enforcement of FSIS criminal, civil and administrative sanctions and authorities
- Verify state meat and poultry programs are conducted in a manner at least equal to the federal program
- Verify that meat, poultry and egg products imported into the United States are produced under equivalent standards.

Compliance and Investigation Division (CID)



- Investigates violations of the food safety, food defense, and other consumer protection statutory requirements.
- Controls unsafe or violative products through detentions, civil seizures, and voluntary recalls.
- Develops cases through surveillance and investigation activity to ensure that appropriate criminal, administrative, and civil sanctions are carried out according to Agency laws, regulations and directives.

Compliance and Investigations Division



Plays a substantive role in:

- Outbreak investigations
- FSIS' homeland security mission area, including preparation, detection, prevention, protection, and response to biosecurity threats in the United States.
- Regulatory oversight over businesses engaged in transportation, storage, and distribution of meat, poultry, and egg products, in commerce.
- Execution and implementation of Agency policies related to criminal investigations of domestic and imported product throughout the United States.

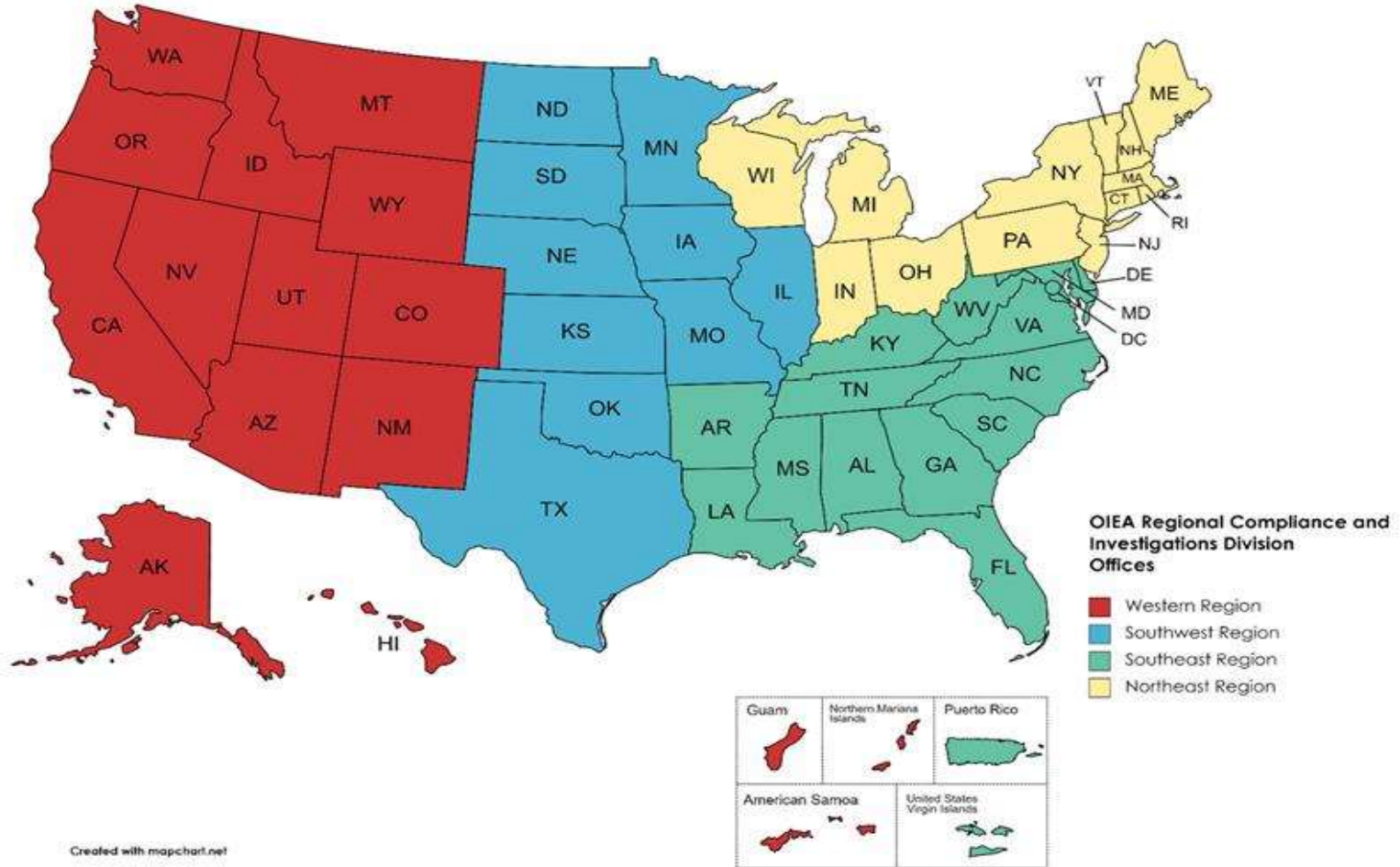
Compliance and Investigations Division



Accomplishes the Agency mission through:

- Surveillance Activities
- Investigations
- Enforcement
- Product Control Actions
- Food Defense Activities
- Emergency Response
- Liaison Activities

CID Regions



Surveillance Activities



- The act of assessing food safety, food defense, non-food safety consumer protection, order verification, and imported products at facilities operating In-Commerce.
- CID has jurisdiction in over 750,000 In-Commerce businesses, including about 174,000 in the In-Commerce System, that transport, store, distribute, prepare, and sell meat, poultry, and egg products.
- Investigators conduct in-commerce surveillance activities at warehouses, distributors, transporters, retailers, ports-of-entry, and other in-commerce businesses to ensure that regulated products are safe, wholesome, and correctly labeled and packaged.

Investigations



- CID Investigators conduct investigations and related activities at businesses where meat, poultry, egg products, and shell eggs are produced, sold, distributed, offered for sale or distribution, imported, exported, stored, or otherwise prepared or handled.
- When violations of the Acts or regulations are alleged or detected, CID can control or detain adulterated, misbranded, or other violative products in commerce.
- CID will investigate allegations, violations, or food safety incidents; conduct foodborne illness traceback investigations; collect, maintain, and secure evidence; and document investigative reports to support Agency decisions, investigative findings, and enforcement or legal actions.

Enforcement



- Case documentation is referred to OIEA's Enforcement Operations Staff (EOS) for criminal, civil, or administrative enforcement action.
- FSIS takes administrative enforcement actions and recommends criminal and civil prosecution through the USDA Office of the General Counsel (OGC) and the U.S. Attorneys Offices (USAO) of the Department of Justice (DOJ).
- FSIS also collaborates with the USDA Office of Inspector General (OIG) and with other Federal and State agencies on enforcement actions.



Product Control Actions

- When FSIS has *reason to believe* that meat, poultry, shell eggs, and egg products found in commerce are adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise in violation of the Acts, FSIS has various means to control such products.
- Detention actions are product control actions intended to protect consumers by preventing further product distribution and removing unsafe or noncompliant product from commerce.
- Some other examples of product control actions are: personal use, voluntary destructions, donations, and seizures.

Seizure



- When detained product is not destroyed or proper disposition is not offered within *20 days*, FSIS asks the U.S. Attorney, through the Office of the General Counsel, to initiate a seizure action to seize the product to ensure that it is not sold or distributed to consumers.

Food Defense Activities



- Food defense is the protection of food products from intentional adulteration with chemical, biological, physical, or radiological agents.
- CID personnel conduct food defense surveillance activities at non-federally inspected facilities to identify and assess potential vulnerabilities which could increase the risk of intentional product tampering and adulteration of meat, poultry, and egg products.
- CID Investigators educate distributors, importers, and other Federal, State, and Local food handlers to improve food safety and defense.

Emergency Response



- Significant incidents present grave, or potentially grave, threats to public health or to the safety of FSIS-regulated products (e.g., tampering, natural disaster, or terrorist attack).
- Investigators may be called upon to conduct or to assist other FSIS program areas or other Federal, State, or Tribal agencies to prevent, prepare for, respond to, or recover from non-routine incidents resulting from intentional or non-intentional contamination of FSIS-regulated products.



Liaison Activities

- A significant amount of information gathering pertinent to regulatory activities of other agencies can be obtained through liaison activities.
- Partnering effectively is critical, in illness outbreaks, food defense, emergency response, investigation, and enforcement.
- CID establishes partnerships and liaison with:
 - Agencies within USDA
 - Office of the Inspector General (OIG),
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 - Other law enforcement, public health, and food defense agencies, at the Federal, State, and local levels



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