

Technical Brief 09-12

Owner: Chris Mawson

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1. USDA FSIS Self Reporting Tool for Meat Establishments - *Nicola Dermer & Janine Collier*

Notification: All US listed meat processing premises are required to complete a self reporting tool (SRT) spreadsheet. The target date for completion of the SRT by premises is Tuesday 15 December 2009. Once completed, SRTs should be submitted to the team's unit coordinator for collation and a review of the information. Unit coordinators are to save the completed SRTs into VAOL by 21 December 2009. Further information will be provided to unit coordinators detailing where the SRTs should be saved and what should be reviewed.

A copy of the SRT together with guidelines for completing the SRT are attached to this Technical Brief. The guidelines detail which types of premises need to complete the SRT.

Background: USDA FSIS is trialling the SRT as part of moving to an alternative approach to foreign country auditing. New Zealand is required to submit completed SRTs to FSIS prior to next year's audit. The potential benefit to New Zealand from completing the SRT is a reduced audit frequency in the future. The complete SRT consists of a central competent authority spreadsheet (completed by NZFSA), the establishment spreadsheet (to be completed by industry) and a labs spreadsheet (to be completed by LAS laboratories).

The SRT was discussed with industry at the MIA Technical Committee meeting last week. Concerns raised about the short timeframe were noted. The goal is to have as many completed SRTs as possible prior to Christmas. Where companies have a large number of plants and are unable to complete SRTs for all plants by the target date, they should contact NZFSA, through the MIA (if members), to discuss alternative dates.

Chris Mawson

Deputy Director (VA)