

Sampling types

The term “sampling” as used in this module implies FSIS sampling. FSIS sampling refers to you physically collecting product that represents a product type and submitting it to a lab for an actual analysis. Whenever plant sampling is discussed, it will be stated as such.

The lab is completely dependent on you to properly collect, prepare, and ship the sample. The forms that accompany each sample must be the correct ones for the sample request and must be accurate and completely filled out. Your role is vital. The information entered on the form becomes part of a legal document.

There are three types of sampling: inspector-generated, OPHS (Office of Public Health Science) directed, and special projects.

Inspector-generated samples are based on suspicion, and the reason for the sampling determines the product/category. If you suspect adulterated product was produced, then you may submit a sample **after** getting approval to sample from your Frontline Supervisor (FLS) and receiving an OPHS-generated form. You can no longer use any form but the FSIS Form 10,210-3 (Requested Sample Programs) that you obtain from OPHS.

OPHS directed samples are selected when sample requests are received in the mail. The directed sample requests for microbial analyses are on the Requested Sample Programs form, 10,210-3. (The 10,210-3 soon will be sent electronically rather than through the U.S. mail.) For OPHS directed samples, the product history determines the sampling. OPHS determines to which plants to send sample requests based on seasonality, product types, processing methods, plant histories, and randomness.

Special project samples are taken when FSIS is alerted to a food borne illness outbreak by a state or local government, or when there is a special need.