



# Worthwhile Operational Guidelines & Suggestions

BROILER PROCESSING TIMELY INFORMATION – OCTOBER 2011

## HACCP Process Validation: II. In-plant validation data

In-plant observations, measurements, microbiological test results, or other information demonstrating that control measures, as written into a HACCP system, can be implemented within a particular establishment to validate the process's intended result. The validation data for any HACCP system must include practical data or information reflecting an establishment's actual experience in implementing the HACCP system. This will not only demonstrate that the HACCP system is theoretically sound, but also that it can be implemented as designed to reach the desired effect. Data should be generated when a new HACCP system is implemented, or whenever a new or modified food safety hazard control is introduced into an existing HACCP system. The goal here is to gather necessary data by repeatedly testing the adequacy of the process and to establish that the HACCP system meets the designed parameters to achieve intended results. For example, processing plants often incorporate intervention steps to reduce levels of certain pathogens and use published scientific support to implement that process (Discussed in September WOGS) as the first step, however, in the subsequent steps plants should demonstrate the capabilities of these new/altered interventions within specific plant environments to actually achieve the effect documented in the scientific study. This is critical because actual conditions in the establishment may differ from the controlled studies and hence specific log reductions or the ease of monitoring critical parameters achieved in the laboratory may not be easily attainable in an actual plant setting.

In-plant validation also includes gathering data to demonstrate that the collection of interventions and process steps together in sequence produce a safe, wholesome unadulterated product. In other words, HACCP system IS achieving the desired result. For more information on how to conduct an in-plant validation study refer to the USDA-FSIS document at:

[http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/Compliance\\_Guides\\_Index/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations/Compliance_Guides_Index/index.asp) or contact Dr. Singh.



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