

SUMMARY: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is announcing that it will hold five workshops from September through October, 2003, to discuss the upcoming implementation of the interim final rule, "Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products," (68 FR 34208), which is effective on October 6, 2003. The provisions of the rule require official establishments that produce certain ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products to prevent product adulteration by the pathogenic environmental contaminant *Listeria monocytogenes* (L. monocytogenes).

The focus of the upcoming workshops will be on how small and very small plants can comply with the new regulations. Key elements of the implementation of the final rule will be addressed, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions and seek additional information. FSIS has held similar workshops in the past for small and very small plants as a means of helping such plants, which may have fewer resources than large plants, to comply with FSIS requirements.

DATES: The workshops will be held on September 13, 20, and October 4, 2003.

ADDRESSES: On September 13, workshops will be held in Raleigh, North Carolina and Bridgeport, Connecticut; on September 20, a workshop will be held in Kansas City, Kansas; and on October 4, workshops will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico and Oakland, California. (Additional information will be provided at a later date.)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Pre-registration for the workshops is suggested. To register, please contact Ms. Sheila Johnson of the FSIS Strategic Initiatives, Partnership and Outreach Staff at (202) 690-6498, fax: (202) 690-6500, or e-mail:

Sheila.Johnson@fsis.usda.gov. For technical information, please contact Michaelle Fisher at (401) 221-7400, or email: *michaelle.fisher@fsis.usda.gov*. If a sign language interpreter or other special accommodations are required, please contact Ms. Sheila Johnson, no later than September 5.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On June 6, 2003, FSIS published an interim final rule, "Control of *Listeria monocytogenes* in Ready-to-Eat Meat and Poultry Products," (68 FR 34208), which will become effective October 6, 2003. The rule establishes regulations that require official establishments that produce RTE meat and poultry products to prevent product adulteration by the pathogenic environmental contaminant L. monocytogenes. Under the new

regulations, all establishments that produce RTE meat and poultry products that are exposed to the environment after lethality treatments and that support the growth of L. monocytogenes are to have controls that prevent product adulteration by L. monocytogenes in their hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) plans, in their sanitation standard operating procedures, or in prerequisite programs. Establishments are also required to maintain and share with FSIS data and information relevant to their controls for L. monocytogenes. Additionally, the new regulations permit an establishment to make claims on the labels of the RTE products regarding the processes used to eliminate or reduce L. monocytogenes or suppress or limit its growth in the products.

The workshops are designed to provide an overview of the final rule to owners and managers of small and very small Federal and State establishments. In addition, the workshops will give all stakeholders a more in-depth understanding of the three compliance alternatives, the sampling provisions, recordkeeping requirements, the use of labeling claims, how to comply with the validation provisions of the regulations, and how to prepare supporting documentation for their hazard analyses. The meeting will also provide the opportunity to discuss additional ways of ensuring that small and very small plants receive the assistance they need to successfully respond to the final rule.

Additional Public Notification

Public awareness of all segments of rulemaking and policy development is important. Consequently, in an effort to better ensure that minorities, women, and persons with disabilities are aware of this notice, FSIS will announce it and make copies of this **Federal Register** publication available through the FSIS Constituent Update. FSIS provides a weekly Constituent Update, which is communicated via Listserv, a free e-mail subscription service. In addition, the update is available on-line through the FSIS Web page located at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov>. The update is used to provide information regarding FSIS policies, procedures, regulations, **Federal Register** notices, FSIS public meetings, recalls, and any other types of information that could affect or would be of interest to our constituents/stakeholders. The constituent Listserv consists of industry, trade, and farm groups, consumer interest groups, allied health professionals, scientific professionals, and other individuals that

have requested to be included. Through the Listserv and Web page, FSIS is able to provide information to a much broader, more diverse audience.

For more information contact the Congressional and Public Affairs Office, at (202) 720-9113. To be added to the free e-mail subscription service (Listserv) go to the "Constituent Update" page on the FSIS Web site at <http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/update/update.htm>. Click on the "Subscribe to the Constituent Update Listserv" link, then fill out and submit the form.

Done in Washington, DC on August 18, 2003.

Garry L. McKee,
Administrator.

[FR Doc. 03-21483 Filed 8-21-03; 8:45 am]

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FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

11 CFR Part 111

[Notice 2003-15]

Statement of Policy Regarding Deposition Transcriptions in Nonpublic Investigations

AGENCY: Federal Election Commission.

ACTION: Statement of policy.

SUMMARY: The Federal Election Commission announces an alteration to its historic practice with regard to transcripts of depositions in enforcement matters to permit deponents to obtain a copy of the transcript of their own deposition so long as there is no good cause to limit the deponent to an opportunity to review and sign the transcript.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 22, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Lawrence L. Calvert, Deputy Associate General Counsel for Enforcement, Federal Election Commission, 999 E Street NW., Washington, DC 20463, (202) 694-1650 or (800) 424-9530.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: When Federal Election Commission attorneys take a deponent's sworn testimony at an enforcement deposition authorized by 2 U.S.C. 437d(a)(4), only the deponent and his or her counsel may attend. Under historic practice, the deponent has the right to review and sign the transcript. 11 CFR 111.12(c) (applying Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(e) to Commission enforcement depositions). However, a deponent who is also a respondent is not currently allowed to obtain a copy of, or take notes when reviewing, his or her own transcript unless and until the General Counsel has transmitted, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(3), a brief

recommending that the Commission find probable cause to believe that the respondent has violated or is about to violate the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as amended ("the Act"), or Chapters 95 or 96 of Title 26, U.S. Code. The Office of General Counsel does not currently offer other deponents an opportunity to obtain their transcripts; once the entire matter has been closed, other deponents can copy the transcript at their own expense if the transcript is made part of the public record.

The Commission recently invited the public to comment on various aspects of the agency's enforcement practices, including whether and when transcripts of depositions should be released and to whom. See "Enforcement Procedures," Notice 2003-9, 68 FR 23311 (May 1, 2003). One possible change in practice included in the notice was for the Office of General Counsel to routinely allow deponents who are also respondents to procure immediately a copy of their own transcripts unless, on a case-by-case basis, the General Counsel concluded (or the Commission concluded, on the recommendation of the General Counsel) that it was necessary to the successful completion of the investigation to withhold the transcript until completion of the investigation.

On June 11, 2003, the Commission held a public hearing on its enforcement practices. At the hearing, counsel for the regulated community suggested changes to the agency's enforcement procedures, including its deposition policy. Some of those testifying suggested that deponents be allowed to obtain copies of their own depositions immediately after the deposition, contrary to the historic practice. Several of these commenters also noted that the Commission's practice regarding depositions contrasts with that of some other civil law enforcement agencies during the investigative stage of their proceedings.

The Commission is governed, in part, by the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Under the APA, "[a] person compelled to submit data or evidence is entitled to retain or, on payment of lawfully proscribed costs, procure a copy or transcript thereof, except that in a nonpublic investigatory proceeding the witness may for good cause be limited to inspection of the official transcript of his testimony." 5 U.S.C. 555(c). One example of "good cause" recognized by courts is a concern that witnesses still to be examined might be coached. See *Commercial Capital Corp. v. SEC*, 360 F.2d 856, 858 (7th Cir. 1966). In the past, all open investigations have been considered as

falling within the APA's good-cause exception based on the potential for deponents to share their testimony with third parties. The Commission and its Office of General Counsel have also been mindful of the Federal Election Campaign Act's requirement that ongoing investigations be kept confidential.¹

Other federal agencies that conduct nonpublic investigations have adopted policies that interpret the APA's good-cause exception more narrowly. For example, in 1964 the Federal Communications Commission adopted a policy whereby: "In any matter pending before the Commission, any person submitting data or evidence, whether acting under compulsion or voluntarily, shall have the right to retain a copy thereof, or to procure a copy * * * of any transcript made of his testimony, upon payment of the charges therefor to the person furnishing the same, which person may be designated by the Commission. The Commission itself shall not be responsible for furnishing the copies." 47 CFR 1.10. In 1972, the Securities and Exchange Commission adopted its current rule on this subject, which is similar to the FCC's. See 17 CFR 203.6. Likewise, the practice of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is governed by 17 CFR 11.7(b), which states: "A person compelled to submit data or evidence in the course of an investigatory proceeding shall be entitled to retain or, upon payment of appropriate fees * * * procure a copy or transcript thereof, except that the witness may for good cause be limited to inspection of the official transcript of his testimony."

After carefully reviewing the comments submitted to it on this matter and considering the experience of other federal agencies regarding deposition transcripts in nonpublic investigations, the Commission hereby announces that, from the date of publication of this notice, it will permit deponents in enforcement matters to obtain, upon request to the Office of General Counsel, a copy of the transcript of their own deposition. The Commission has determined that it can maintain the integrity of its investigations even if current practice is altered, so long as

¹ Under 2 U.S.C. 437g(a)(12): "Any notification or investigation made under this section shall not be made public by the Commission or by any person without the written consent of the person receiving such notification or the person with respect to whom such investigation is made. Any member or employee of the Commission, or any other person, who violates the provisions * * * shall be fined not more than \$2,000. Any such member, employee, or other person who knowingly and willfully violates the provisions * * * shall be fined not more than \$5,000."

access to transcripts may still be denied upon determination that good cause exists for doing so, and so long as third-party witnesses (or deponents who are also respondents in matters with multiple respondents) are granted access to their transcripts subject to the confidentiality requirements of the Act.

Accordingly, in all matters open and pending before the Commission on or after the date of publication of this notice, a deponent may, in writing, request a copy of his or her own deposition transcript. The request may be made at any time after the deposition concludes. The Office of General Counsel will review the request and, absent good cause to the contrary, it will notify the deponent and the court reporter in writing that the deponent may obtain a copy of the transcript, at his or her own cost, from the court reporter. If the Associate General Counsel or her deputy determined that there was reason to invoke the good-cause exception, this Office would notify the deponent and the Commission. This change would not in any way affect 11 CFR 111.12(c).

Dated: August 18, 2003.

Michael E. Toner,

Commissioner, Federal Election Commission.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Aviation Administration

14 CFR Part 39

[Docket No. 2000-CE-17-AD; Amendment 39-13279; AD 2003-17-05]

RIN 2120-AA64

Airworthiness Directives; Short Brothers and Harland Ltd. Models SC-7 Series 2 and SC-7 Series 3 Airplanes

AGENCY: Federal Aviation Administration, DOT.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This amendment adopts a new airworthiness directive (AD) that applies to all Short Brothers and Harland Ltd. (Shorts) Models SC-7 Series 2 and SC-7 Series 3 airplanes. This AD establishes a technical service life for these airplanes and allows you to incorporate modifications, inspections, and replacements of certain life limited items to extend the life limits of these airplanes. This AD is the result of mandatory continuing airworthiness information (MCAI) issued by the airworthiness authority for