

Regulatory Alert: USDA Publishes Final Grind Log Rule

January 12, 2016

On December 21, 2015, the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture released a final rule to require that **all official establishments and retail stores** that grind raw beef products keep certain records that disclose the establishment numbers of all source materials that they use in the preparation of each lot of raw ground beef. Establishments and retailers must also record the names of those supplied source materials, including beef components and carryover from one production lot to the next. Records are required to document lot numbers, the date and time each lot was produced, and the date and time when grinding equipment and other related food contact surfaces were cleaned and sanitized. Recordkeeping requirements apply to not just ordinary lots of ground beef, but raw beef products that are ground at an individual consumer's request.

Summary

Who does the regulation apply to?

Retail stores and official establishments that grind raw beef products

What records must be kept?

For each lot of ground beef product produced, records must be maintained on:

- USDA establishment numbers of the establishments supplying the materials used to prepare the product
- Supplier lot numbers and production dates
- The names of supplied materials, including beef components and any materials carried over from one production lot to the next
- The date and time each lot of raw ground beef product is produced
- The date and time when grinding equipment and food-contact surfaces are cleaned and sanitized

How long must records be kept?

One year

When is compliance required?

June 20, 2016

For more information please contact Erik Lieberman of Lieberman PLLC at erl@liebermanpllc.com or 202.830.0300.

Disclaimer: This material is provided as a service to clients and friends of the law firm of Lieberman PLLC and does not constitute legal advice. As legal advice must be tailored to the specific circumstances of each case and laws and regulations are frequently changing, nothing provided herein should be used as a substitute for the advice of competent counsel.