FSIS Product Categorization

FSIS has developed this document to assist with accurate identification of the meat, poultry, and egg products certified for export to the United States.

Process Category:

There are nine (9) process categories identified in 9CFR 417.2(b). Of the nine (9) listed, Slaughter is considered an internal process that occurs in establishments where the animals or birds are slaughtered. This category is not used for imported products. An additional process category that is not contained in 9CFR 417.2(b) is Egg Products.

Note that FSIS has recently renamed two process categories: Raw Product – Ground and Raw Product -Not Ground are now referred to as Raw Product -Non-Intact and Raw Product -Intact, respectively. However, use of either terminology will be acceptable to FSIS.

Note that official foreign inspection certificates should reflect the process category name, rather than the obsolete coding previously used by FSIS (e.g. 03B, 03C, etc.). These codes have been included in the table as some countries previously certified the process categories on the inspection certificates with this coding.

<u>Raw Product – Non-Intact</u>: This process category applies to establishments that further process by using processing steps such as grinding, comminuting, injecting product with solutions, or mechanical tenderization by needling, cubing, pounding devices or other means of creating non-intact product. Examples of finished products in this category include raw products reconstructed into formed entrees, mechanically separated species, and advanced meat recovery product. If the establishment produces bench trim or pieces of meat produced from non-intact meat, then the bench trim or pieces are also considered non-intact.

<u>Raw Product – Intact</u>: FSIS considers raw products to be intact unless they have undergone any of the processes associated with the Raw Product -Non-Intact process category.

<u>Thermally Processed – Commercially Sterile</u>: This process category applies to establishments that use a thermal processing step. Thermally processed, commercially sterile finished products are products in cans or flexible containers such as pouches, or semi-rigid, as in lunch bowls. Thermally processed, commercially sterile products are addressed in 9 CFR 431.

<u>Not Heat Treated – Shelf Stable</u>: This process category applies to establishments that further process by curing, drying, or fermenting processing step as the sole means by which product achieves food safety. Establishments in this process category may apply a low-level heat treatment as long as the heat treatment is not used as means to achieve food safety. The finished products produced under this Process Categories are shelf stable. FSIS does not require shelf stable products to be frozen or refrigerated for food safety purposes.

<u>Heat Treated – Shelf Stable</u>: This process category applies to establishments that further process by using a heat treatment processing step to achieve food safety in combination with curing, drying, or fermenting processing step to achieve food safety. The finished products produced under this process category are shelf stable. FSIS does not require shelf stable products to be frozen or refrigerated for food safety purposes. If the establishment produces using the processing steps applicable under this process category and the product is not shelf stable, then establishment is producing product under the process category Fully Cooked -Not Shelf Stable.

<u>Fully Cooked – Not Shelf Stable</u>: This process category applies to establishments that further process products by using primarily a full lethality heat process step (e.g. cooking) to achieve food safety. The finished products that establishments produce under this process category are not shelf stable. FSIS requires the products to be frozen or refrigerated for food safety purposes. These products also meet the definition of Ready to Eat (RTE) as defined in 9 CFR 430.1.

<u>Heat Treated but Not Fully Cooked – Not Shelf Stable</u>: This process category applies to an establishment that further processes products that are (1) not ready-to-eat products (NRTE) or (2) raw otherwise processed products that are refrigerated or frozen throughout the product's shelf life. Meat and poultry products are produced using a heat process that meets one of the following criteria:

- a. The heat-processing step is not adequate to achieve food safety. Products may be partially cooked or heated to set batter on a raw product.
- b. The heat processing step applied to meat or poultry component was adequate to achieve food safety, however product is further processed, assembled, or packaged so that cooked meat or poultry products contacts non-ready to-eat product ingredients. In this case, the final product is in a form that is not edible without additional preparing to achieve food safety. An example of this product is pot pie product that contains cooked chicken and raw dough.

NOTE: This category may also include products that receive a full lethality treatment but there is no standard of identity defining them as fully cooked (e.g., hotdogs or barbecue) or a common or usual name that consumers understand to refer to RTE product (e.g., pates).

<u>Products with Secondary Inhibitors - Not Shelf Stable</u>: This process category applies to establishments that further process by using a curing processing step or a processing step using other ingredients that inhibit bacterial growth. These products are generally refrigerated or frozen throughout the product's shelf life. Depending on the process and ingredients, these products may or may not meet the definition of RTE as defined in 9 CFR 430.1.

Eggs/Egg Products: This process category applies to dried, pasteurized, and unpasteurized egg products.

Product Category: (with Applicable Species)

The <u>Product Categories</u> are shown in the FSIS Product Categorization table with the appropriate species indicated for each.

The <u>Species</u> designations FSIS is using for PHIS are: for Meat: Beef, Veal, Pork, Lamb, Mutton, and Goat; for Poultry: Chicken, Turkey, Duck, Goose, Guinea, and Squab, including for Ratites: Emu, Ostrich, and Rhea; for Eggs: Chicken, Turkey, Duck, Goose and Guinea; for Siluriformes: Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other; and for Egg Products: Chicken, Turkey, Duck, Goose, and Guinea. For each product, the certification must indicate which species is predominant in the product to assure the appropriate regulations are applied to the product when applicable.

Product Group:

The product group defines the product down to a level that FSIS can program appropriate types of inspections (TOI) for examinations and laboratory sampling. While these appear to be self-explanatory, for Raw Product - Intact, Cuts are cuts of meat that are below the Primal and Subprimal level (e.g., food service/retail cuts such as steaks, or chops).

The following table displays the process categories and the types of finished products that can be present in a process category.

Finished Product Types by Process Category				
Process Categories	Finished Products			
	Raw	NRTE	RTE	Thermally Processed
	Product	Product	Products	Product
Slaughter	•			
Raw -Non Intact (Raw Ground)	•			
Raw -Intact (Raw Not Ground)	•			
Thermally Processed -Commercially Sterile				•
Not Heat-Treated - Shelf Stable		•	•	
Heat Treated - Shelf Stable		•	•	
Fully Cooked -Not Shelf Stable			•	
Heat Treated but Not Fully Cooked – Not Shelf Stable		•		
Product with Secondary Inhibitors -Not Shelf Stable		•	•	
Eggs/Egg Products	Not Applicable			

Ready to Eat applies to any product intended for human consumption without further preparation steps.

Note: Products that appear fully cooked or are customarily consumed without further preparation, but the label does not include cooking instructions, are by default considered RTE.

RTE fully cooked means that the products have been sufficiently cooked so that they are safe to eat as they are, with no further preparation required by the consumer. Note: Many of these products are customarily eaten hot, and heating instructions may be included on the label.

Some frozen RTE products require reheating for palatability. These frozen products are still safe to eat without this further preparation by the consumer and are therefore still considered RTE. Some examples include: fully cooked hams, cooked beef, roast beef, pastrami, corned beef, hot dogs, meat loaves, meat and poultry salads, sliced luncheon meats, baked chicken, frozen entrees, and poultry rolls.

Fresh or frozen entrees with fully cooked meat or poultry portions combined with fully cooked sauces, vegetables, pasta, or other ingredients are RTE products. These products are designed to be re-heated by the consumer, and may include instructions for re-heating.

Not Ready to Eat applies to products with cooking instructions or labeled with statements on the principal display panel such as "Cook Thoroughly, Cook and Serve, Not Ready to Eat, or For Safety and Quality- follow these cooking instructions." These products are considered NRTE. Certain NRTE products are required to bear safe handling instructions (SHI).

Some NRTE finished products are heat treated but are not fully cooked. These NRTE products should have sufficient labeling information to inform the consumer that the product must be cooked for safety. This information may be contained within the product name on the principal display panel, and may contain cooking instructions that refer to cooking the product for safety rather than heating the product for best quality. The product often times may bear a safe handling instruction.

Some NRTE finished products are prepared with both meat/poultry components that have received a lethality treatment in combination with non-meat/poultry components that need to receive a lethality treatment. These multi-component products, e.g., meals, dinners, and entrees, have labeling features which are conspicuous so that intended users are fully aware that the product must be cooked for safety. The principle display panel on the label defines these products, e.g., "Cook and Serve, "Must be thoroughly cooked," "Cook before eating", and the product should include cooking instructions when required.

Raw Product - Non-Intact

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Raw - Non Intact	Raw ground comminuted or otherwise non-intact Siluriformes	Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	 Ground Product Non-Intact Cuts Other Non-Intact
	Raw ground, comminuted, or otherwise non-intact beef	Beef, Veal	Advanced Meat Recovery Product (AMR) Beef Patty Product Bench Trim from non-intact Finely Textured Beef Formed Steaks Ground Beef Hamburger Low Temperature Rendered Product Non-Intact Cuts Other Non-Intact Other Non-Intact Products Partially Defatted Beef Fatty Tissue (PDBFT) Partially Defatted Chopped Beef (PDCB) Sausage Trimmings from Non-Intact
	Raw ground, comminuted, or otherwise non-intact chicken	Chicken	 Ground Product Mechanically Separated (Species) Other Non-Intact Sausage
	Raw ground, comminuted, or otherwise non-intact meat - other (sheep, goat)	Goat, Lamb, Mutton	 Advanced Meat Recovery Product (AMR) Ground Product Mechanically Separated Other Non-Intact Sausage
	Raw ground, comminuted, or otherwise non-intact pork	Pork	 Advanced Meat Recovery Product (AMR) Ground Product Mechanically Separated Other Non-Intact Sausage
	Raw ground, comminuted, or otherwise non-intact poultry - other (ducks, geese, squab)	Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea	 Ground Product Mechanically Separated (Species) Other Non-Intact Sausage
	Raw ground, comminuted, or otherwise non-intact turkey	Turkey	 Ground Product Mechanically Separated (Species) Other Non-Intact Sausage

Raw Product - Intact

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Raw - Intact	Raw intact beef	Beef, Veal	 Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings Carcass (including carcass halves or quarters) Cheek Meat Cuts Edible Offal Head Meat Heart Meat Other Intact Primals and Subprimals Weasand Meat
	Raw intact chicken	Chicken	 Boneless and/or Skinless Parts Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings Poultry parts (including necks/feet & giblets) Whole Bird
	Raw intact meat - other	Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	CutsOther IntactWhole Fish
	Raw intact meat - other (sheep, goat)	Goat, Lamb, Mutton	 Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings Carcass (including carcass halves or quarters) Cuts Edible Offal Other Intact Primals and Subprimals
	Raw intact pork	Pork	 Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings Carcass (including carcass halves or quarters) Cuts Edible Offal Other Intact Primals and Subprimals
	Raw intact poultry - other (ducks, geese, squab)	Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea	 Boneless and/or Skinless Parts Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings Poultry parts (including necks/feet & giblets) Whole Bird
	Raw intact turkey	Turkey	 Boneless and/or Skinless Parts Boneless Manufacturing Trimmings Poultry parts (including necks/feet & giblets) Whole Bird

Thermally Processed - Commercially Sterile

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Thermally Processed/Commercially Sterile Thermally processed, commercially sterile		Beef, Veal, Chicken, Duck, Goat, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Lamb, Mutton, Turkey	Corned (species)OtherSausageSoups
	Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	• Other	
	Pork	Corned (species)HamOtherSausageSoups	

Not Heat Treated - Shelf Stable

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Not Heat Treated - Shelf Stable	NRTE otherwise processed meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausage Products Smoked Parts Soups
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Meals/Dinners/EntreesOther
	NRTE otherwise processed poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausages Smoked Parts Soups
	RTE acidified / fermented meat (without cooking)	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	 Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced Sausage/Salami - Not sliced Sausage/Salami - Sliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Sausage/Salami
	RTE acidified / fermented poultry (without cooking)	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced Sausage/Salami - Not sliced Sausage/Salami - Sliced

Not Heat Treated - Shelf Stable (Con't)

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Not Heat Treated - Shelf Stable	RTE dried meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton	 Jerky Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	• Other
		Pork	 Ham - Not sliced Ham - Sliced Jerky Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced
	RTE dried poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Jerky Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced
	RTE salt-cured meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	Not-sliced Sliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Other
	RTE salt-cured poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	Not-sliced Sliced

Heat Treated - Shelf Stable

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Heat Treated - Shelf Stable	NRTE otherwise processed meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausage Products Smoked Parts Soups
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other
	NRTE otherwise processed poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausages Smoked Parts Soups
	RTE acidified / fermented meat (without cooking)	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	 Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced Sausage/Salami - Not sliced Sausage/Salami - Sliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Sausage/Salami
	RTE acidified / fermented poultry (without cooking)	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced Sausage/Salami - Not sliced Sausage/Salami - Sliced
	RTE dried meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton	 Jerky Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	• Other
		Pork	 Ham - Not sliced Ham - Sliced Jerky Other - Not sliced Other - Sliced

Heat Treated - Shelf Stable (Con't)

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Heat Treated - Shelf Stable	RTE dried poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	JerkyOther - Not slicedOther - Sliced
	RTE salt-cured meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	Not-slicedSliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	• Other
	RTE salt-cured poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	Not-slicedSliced

Fully Cooked - Not Shelf Stable

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Fully Cooked - Not Shelf Stable	RTE fully-cooked meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton	 Diced/Shredded Hot Dog Products Meat + Nonmeat Component Nuggets Other Fully cooked not sliced product Other Fully cooked sliced product Parts Patties Salad/Spread/Pate Sausage Products
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Diced/ShreddedNuggetOther
		Pork	 Diced/Shredded Ham Patties Ham, Not Sliced (Includes: Shoulders, Picnics, Butts and Loins; chopped ham, pressed ham, spiced ham, etc.) Ham, Sliced Hot Dog Products Meat + Nonmeat Component Nuggets Other Fully cooked not sliced product Other Fully cooked sliced product Parts Patties Salad/Spread/Pate Sausage Products
	RTE fully-cooked poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Diced/Shredded Hot Dog Products Other Fully cooked not sliced product Other Fully cooked sliced product Parts Patties/Nuggets Poultry + Nonpoultry Component Salad/Spread/Pate Sausage Products

Fully Cooked - Not Shelf Stable (Con't)

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Fully Cooked - Not Shelf Stable	RTE meat fully-cooked without subsequent exposure to the environment	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton	 Diced/Shredded Hot Dog Products Meat + Nonmeat Component Nuggets Other Fully cooked not sliced product Other Fully cooked sliced product Parts Patties Salad/Spread/Pate Sausage Products
	RTE meat fully-cooked without subsequent exposure to the environment	Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Diced/ShreddedNuggetsOther
		Pork	 Diced/Shredded Ham Patties Ham, Not Sliced (Includes: Shoulders, Picnics, Butts and Loins; chopped ham, pressed ham, spiced ham, etc.) Ham, Sliced Hot Dog Products Meat + Nonmeat Component Nuggets Other Fully cooked not sliced product Other Fully cooked sliced product Parts Patties Salad/Spread/Pate Sausage Products
	RTE poultry fully-cooked without subsequent exposure to the environment	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Diced/Shredded Hot Dog Products Other Fully cooked not sliced product Other Fully cooked sliced product Parts Patties/Nuggets Poultry + Nonpoultry Component Salad/Spread/Pate Sausage Products

Heat Treated - Not Fully Cooked - Not Shelf Stable

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Heat Treated - Not Fully Cooked - Not Shelf Stable	NRTE otherwise processed meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausage Products Smoked Parts Soups
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Other
	NRTE otherwise processed poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausages Smoked Parts Soups

Product with Secondary Inhibitors - Not Shelf Stable

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Product with Secondary Inhibitors - Not Shelf Stable	NRTE otherwise processed meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausage Products Smoked Parts Soups
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	• Other
	NRTE otherwise processed poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Bacon Meals/Dinners/Entrees Other Pies/Pot Pies Rendered Fats, Oils Sandwiches/Filled Rolls/Wraps Sauces Sausages Smoked Parts Soups
	RTE salt-cured meat	Beef, Veal, Goat, Lamb, Mutton, Pork	Not-sliced Sliced
		Siluriformes - Ictaluridae (Catfish), Siluriformes - Other	Other
	RTE salt-cured poultry	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	Not-slicedSliced

Eggs/Egg Products

[HACCP] Process Category	[Finished] Product Category	Species	Product Group
Eggs/Egg Products	Egg Products	Chicken, Duck, Goose, Guinea, Squab, Emu, Ostrich, Rhea, Turkey	 Dried - Egg products (blends of whole egg, egg whites, and/or yolks, w/wo added ingredients) Dried - Egg whites (with or w/o added ingredients) Dried - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Dried - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Egg products (blends of whole egg, egg whites, and/or yolks, w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Egg whites (w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Yolk (w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Egg products (blends of whole egg, egg whites, and/or yolks, w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Egg whites (w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Pasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Egg products (blends of whole egg, egg whites, and/or yolks, w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Egg whites (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Yolk (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Frozen or Liquid) - Yolk (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Egg products (blends of whole egg, egg whites, and/or yolks, w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Egg whites (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Egg whites (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Whole egg (w/wo added ingredients) Unpasteurized (Tanker/Large Totes) - Yolk (w/wo added ingredients)