

Federal Approval of Chinese Chicken: How it HAPPENED



December 2004

Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) staff goes to China to review food safety systems.

July–August 2005

FSIS auditors go to China to review its food safety system.

November 23, 2005

FSIS proposes rule to allow processed poultry from China into the U.S. as long as it is slaughtered in approved countries

May 23, 2006

U.S. Rep. DeLauro blocks funding for the implementation of the FSIS rule in the 2007 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

October 2009

In response to WTO protest, USDA pushes for audits and inspections of Chinese slaughter and processing facilities for the opening of poultry trade.

August 2013

The report on March 2013 visit is published. FSIS agreed that China can export processed chicken to the US.

December 2013

FSIS determines that Chinese chicken slaughter system is unfit; however, USDA Secretary Vilsack travels to China one week later to discuss trade.

March 2013

FSIS returns to China to review Chinese corrective actions in response to the processing audit.

April 2009

China begins the process to appeal the U.S. poultry ban at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

May 2005

FSIS inspectors detail numerous problems in a report on Chinese processing and slaughter plants.

April 20, 2006

The Chinese president visits the White House.

April 24, 2006

FSIS releases final rule giving China equal status for processing poultry.

March 2009

Funding for the implementation of the FSIS rule blocked again in the 2009 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

December 2010

FSIS staff visits China for a review of the Chinese food safety system.



November 2005

Findings from the trip are filed. FSIS found a violation of a basic US requirement at all inspected facilities.



Source: White House

December 26, 2007

Funding for the implementation of the FSIS rule blocked in the 2008 Agriculture Appropriations Bill

July 2009

Hearing on Chinese food safety held by Congressional Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee

October 2011

Reports from the December 2010 FSIS China visit are published: FSIS found serious deficiencies in the Chinese food safety system, including the use of establishment-paid employees to perform official government duties. FSIS also found numerous serious problems with the government system regulating slaughter houses.