



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION
Raleigh, North Carolina**

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

MPID NOTICE

12-24

9-16-2024

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE OF SAMPLE SEALS FOR STATE SAMPLES

I. Purpose

This notice provides instructions for securing samples and boxes used to ship samples to NCDA&CS Food & Drug Protection Division's Microbiology Laboratory. **This notice applies to microbiology samples collected at State Inspected Establishments only.**

II. References

FSIS Directive 7355.1

III. Cancellation

MPIS Notice 11-23 dated 8-2-23

IV. Purpose of Sample Seal Application

While being transported, sample boxes are not under the direct control of MPID. The proper sealing of both the sample and sample box provides a measure of security and integrity of the samples.

V. IIP Procedures to Verify Sample Box Integrity at Receipt

The top flap of each sample box shall be sealed prior to leaving the laboratory.

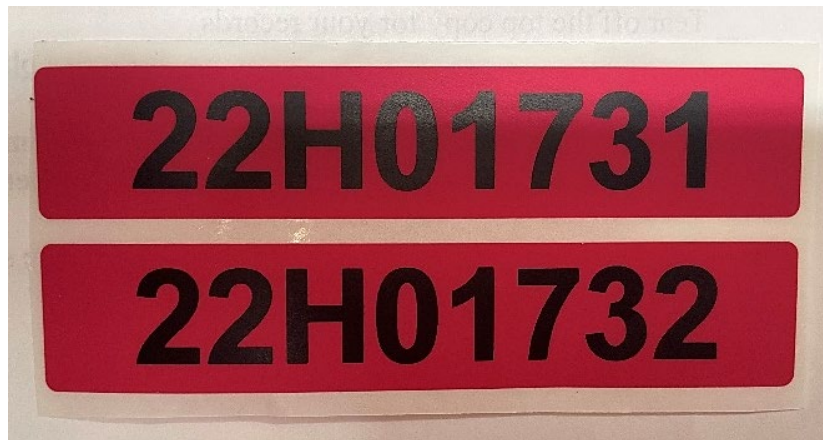


Should the outside seal be missing or broken or there is evidence of tampering when the box is received by the Inspection Program Personnel (IPP), he/she shall contact the Raleigh Office at 919-707-3180 immediately.

If no issues are seen with box integrity, IPP should then check the contents of the box to ensure all supplies needed for sample collection have been included as per the applicable [MPID Micro Instructions](#). If supplies are missing, IPP shall contact the Raleigh Office at 919-707-3180 immediately.

VI. Proper Utilization of Sample Seals

Included inside each sealed box will be two security seals.



Note: Unlike the sample seals used for samples taken in TA establishments, sample seals for state samples do not have identical seal numbers. See example photo above.

After collecting and placing the sample inside of the clear plastic bag(s) provided by the lab (i.e., Whirl-Pak bag(s)) as per the applicable [MPID Micro Instructions](#), IPP shall secure the sample and box using the **two** security seals provided.

1. IPP shall apply **one** seal to close the sample bag. The most exterior Whirl-Pak bag should be the one sealed. There are two ways this can be accomplished, shown in A and B below.

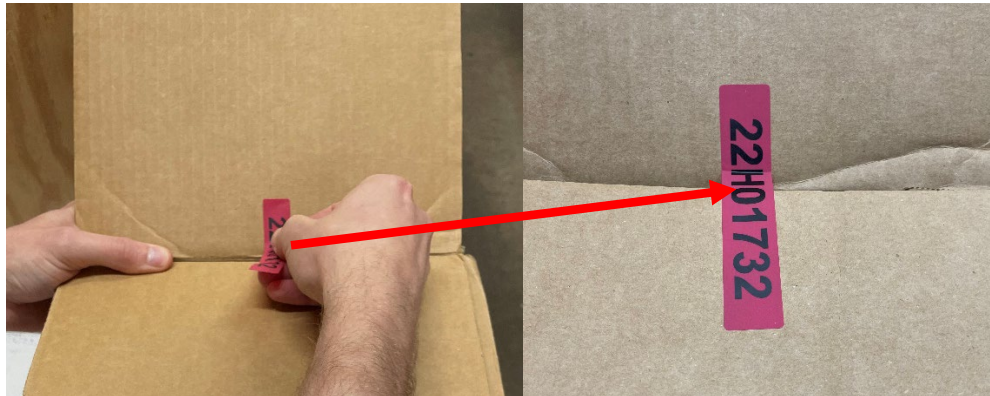
- A. Use the sample seal to secure the top fold of the Whirl-Pak bag to the exterior of the Whirl-Pak bag.



- B. Use the sample seal to only secure the top fold of the Whirl-Pak bag.



- IPP shall then apply the other seal to the inside flap of the sample box after all contents have been placed in the sample box as per the applicable [MPID Micro Instructions](#).



No samples will be processed by the laboratory without the appropriate seals affixed as described above.

VII. Laboratory Procedures to Verify Sample Box Integrity at Receipt

If outside seal removed or there is evidence of tampering when the box arrives at the Laboratory, notify the Raleigh Office by e-mailing MPIDSampling@ncagr.gov immediately.

Dr. Karen Beck
State Director

DISTRIBUTION:
MPID Field Personnel
ASC Microbiology Staff

SUBJECT CATEGORY:
Laboratory