Food Safety Decisions for Frozen Perishable Food

FROZEN FOOD
Measure temperature when received

Partially Frozen (some ice crystals)
- Is it any one of these food groups...?
  - Yes: Refreeze
  - No: Is it...?
    - Yes: Cook/serve or Cook/refreeze
    - No: Organ meats (stew, casserole)
      - Yes: Cook & use within 48 hrs
      - No: Is it previously cooked?
        - Yes: Cook & serve
        - No: Refreeze

Thawed ≤4°C
- Is it any one of these food groups...?
  - Yes: Cook/serve or Cook/refreeze
  - No: Baked goods or previously frozen breakfast items (waffles, pancakes, bagels), hard cheese, vegetable juice/packaged vegetables

Thawed >4°C for over 2 hrs
- Is it any one of these food groups...?
  - Yes: Divert to waste or recycling
  - No: Is it...?
    - Yes: Vegetable juice, fruit juice or packaged/blanched vegetables or fruit
    - No: Baked goods or breakfast items with a custard or cheese filling
      - Yes: Divert to waste or recycling
      - No: Been over 4°C longer than 6 hrs?
        - Yes: Shredded hard cheese?
          - Yes: Divert to waste or recycling
          - No: Serve or Refreeze or Refrigerate
        - No: Dairy goods
          - Yes: Refreeze or Refrigerate
          - No: Serve or Refreeze or Refrigerate
          - Yes: Serve or Refreeze or Refrigerate