



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Food Safety  
and Inspection  
Service

Washington, D.C.  
20250

JUL 30 2008

Mr. David Gifford  
Chair, Conference for Food Protection  
1302 Silver Spur Circle  
Lincoln, California 95648-2070

Dear Mr. Gifford:

Thank you for your May 20, 2008, letter regarding the 2008 Conference for Food Protection (CFP) request that the Department of Agriculture along with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food and Drug Administration, conduct further research into the hazards of using latex gloves in food service and react appropriately.

As you know, there have been several studies on latex allergies and I am pleased to report that the Food Safety and Inspection Service laboratories currently provide non-latex gloves to inspection program personnel.

FSIS looks forward to continuing to work with CFP to improve food safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alfred V. Almanza".

Alfred V. Almanza  
Administrator