



Mary Fandrey
Conference for Food Protection
2972 Miramar Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648

AUG 3 2010

Dear Ms. Fandrey:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the letter submitted by you on behalf of the Conference for Food Protection (CFP). The letter encourages FSIS to promulgate regulations to require that packers and processors of mechanically tenderized beef cuts label these products to identify that they have been pinned, bladed, or otherwise mechanically manipulated in a way that tenderizes the meat by penetrating the intact muscle. Your letter states that such action is needed because of outbreaks of foodborne illness that have occurred from consumption of mechanically tenderized beef products.

Because the action requested in your letter would require that FSIS amend the meat and poultry products inspection regulations, your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (9 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 10-04. As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and will be posted on the FSIS Website.

The Agency believes that there is considerable merit to your suggestion, but how we intend to proceed is under review within the Department. We will certainly give careful consideration to CFP's recommendation.

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Policy Issuances Division at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

Rachel Edelstein
Director
Policy Issuances Division
Office of Policy and Program Development