



the
Conference
for FOOD
PROTECTION

September 28, 2021

Ms. Rachel Edelstein, Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development
USDA - Food Safety and Inspection Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW, Room 350-E JWB
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Ms. Edelstein:

The Conference for Food Protection (CFP/Conference) recently completed its virtual 2020 Biennial Meeting. This meeting was a great success, and I would like to personally thank the representatives of USDA-FSIS for their participation and contribution to the success of the 2020 Biennial Meeting. USDA's continued support for CFP and the CFP process demonstrates that food safety is indeed an achievable goal.

As you are aware the mission of the Conference for Food Protection (CFP/Conference) is to promote food safety through collaboration and partnership among federal, state, and local regulatory agencies; the food industry; academia; and consumer organizations. The three Councils deliberated on a total of 105 Issues. Of these Issues, the Assembly of State Delegates (a group of representatives from 46 States and the District of Columbia) accepted 73 of the Council recommendations. There were two Issues that pertained to USDA-FSIS.

As described in the Conference Procedures and addressed in our MOU with USDA, the Conference Chair must convey any recommendations related to the USDA and request written response from the USDA to those recommendations within 60 days of receipt.

Those Issues that pertain to USDA, including the recommendation for each, are provided below:

Issue III-015 - Committee to Update CFP Guidance on Beef Ground at Retail

Recommendation: That a Committee for the Evaluation of Intended Use Hazards during Retail Meat Grinding be created. This committee should include members from all constituencies in the CFP, including USDA personnel as a consultant.

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Issue III-035 – Amend Food Code: clarify language for disinfection of food-contact surfaces

Recommendation: That a committee be formed to address the term DISINFECTANTS in the Food Code, Food Code Annex, and with the recommended constituencies, including federal partners like FDA, EPA, USDA, and CDC.

USDA's support of and cooperation with the Conference through the years has resulted in an improved regulatory process and increased efforts toward food safety. The CFP Executive Board looks forward to continuing this collaboration with USDA in the coming years. This partnership will enable us to continue making progress to protect public health and ensure food safety.

Sincerely,



Rebecca Vought, Chair
Conference for Food Protection

Cc: Melvin Carter, PhD,
Director - Risk, Innovations, and Management Staff - USDA/FSIS/OPPD
Rebecca Vought
Todd Rossow
CFP Executive Board