

RECEIVED
FSIS DOCKET ROOM
02 JAN 24 AM 10:12

Mahlon C. Schneider
Senior Vice President External Affairs
and General Counsel

December 19, 2001

Hormel Foods Corporation
1 Hormel Place
Austin MN 55912-3680
Phone 507 437 5901
Fax 507 437 5135
E-Mail: mcschneider@hormel.com

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket #01-018P
Cotton Annex, Rm 102
300 C Street SW
Washington DC 20250-3700

22

Re: *Request for Extension of Comment Period*
Docket No. 01-018P; Definitions and Standards of Identity
or Composition: Elimination of the Pizza Standard
66 Federal Register 55601; November 2, 2002

01-018P
01-018P-22
Mahlon C. Schneider

Dear Sir or Madam:

Hormel Foods Corporation (Hormel) respectfully requests an extension of 60 days, to March 4, 2002, of the comment period on the docket referenced above.

Hormel is a multinational manufacturer and marketer of consumer branded meat and food products, including meat toppings used on pizza. Accordingly, this proposal **has a** direct impact on Hormel.

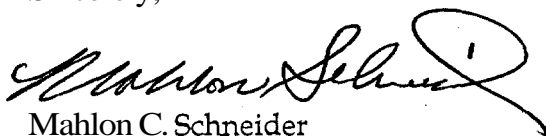
Hormel is currently conducting interviews of consumers regarding their views on meat pizza composition and the changes to the composition contained in this proposal.

Because of the impracticality of assessing consumers' attitudes during the Christmas and New Year holiday season, Hormel needs more time to collect and analyze this information. Therefore, Hormel requests a 60-day extension of the comment period.

In addition, this proposal raises certain important broader issues regarding the role of food standards in the overall regulatory system, including appropriatenaming conventions for products that are non-standardized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on **this** important issue.

Sincerely,



Mahlon C. Schneider

jrs
cc: F. D. Dryden - R&D