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December 21, 2001

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FSIS DOCKET ROOM  
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Ms. Mary Riley - Regulations  
OPPDE-RDDS-FSIS-USDA  
300 C Street SW  
Washington, DC 20250  
VIA FACSIMILE: 202-690-0486

01-018P  
01-018P-4  
Bernard F. Shire

Dear Ms. Riley:

The American Association of Meat Processors (AAMP) would like to request an extension of the comment period for the Proposed Rule: Docket No. 01-018P, Definitions and Standards of Identity or Composition: Elimination of the Pizza Standard. We ask that the comment period be extended from January 02, 2002 for a period of 60 days.

The new rule would amend the Federal meat inspection regulations to remove the standards of identity for "pizza with meat" and "pizza with sausage." We understand that FSIS has determined that these standards may be inhibiting manufacturers of federally inspected frozen pizzas from producing and marketing "new styles" of pizzas that they believe today's consumers demand. This proposal responds to a petition submitted to the Agency by the National Frozen Pizza Institute (NFPI).

Unfortunately, FSIS published its proposal for the new rule on November 02, 2001, with comments due by January 02, 2002, the day after New Year's Day. Because the comment period has been during the holiday period, the busiest time of the year for meat and poultry processors, it has been difficult for AAMP to get input and feedback from its members who will be affected by the FSIS proposal. For that reason, we respectfully ask for the 60 day extension of the proposal.

Sincerely,

Bernard F. Shire, Director  
Legislative & Regulatory Affairs

cc: Gary Baysinger, AAMP President  
Margaret O'K. Glavin, FSIS Acting Administrator