



**NATIONAL
FOOD
PROCESSORS
ASSOCIATION**

December 14, 2001

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

01-018P
01-018P-6
Rhona S. Applebaum

Request for Extension of Comment Period
RE: Docket No. 01-018P; Definitions and Standards of Identity
or Composition: Elimination of the Pizza Standard
66 Federal Register 55601; November 2, 2001

Dear **Sir** or **Madam**:

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The National Food Processors Association (NFPA) respectfully requests an extension of 60 days, to March 4, 2002, of the comment period on the docket referenced above.

1350 I Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
202-639-5900

The National Food Processors Association (NFPA) is the voice of the \$500 billion food processing industry on scientific and public policy issues involving food safety, nutrition, technical and regulatory matters and consumer affairs. NFPA's three scientific centers, its scientists and professional staff represent food industry interests on government and regulatory affairs and provide research, technical services, education, communications and crisis management support for the association's U.S. and international members. NFPA members produce processed and packaged fruit, vegetable, and grain products, meat, poultry, and seafood products, snacks, drinks and juices, or provide supplies and services to food manufacturers.

Several NFPA members feel an extension of the comment period is necessary so that they may collect information from consumers regarding their views on meat pizza composition.

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Because it is impractical for companies to assess consumers' attitudes during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons, which comprise two-thirds of the original sixty-day comment period, these food companies need more

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time to collect this information. Therefore, NFPA, on behalf of its members, 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 appropriate naming conventions for products that are non-standardized, etc. The Association also needs additional time to consider these implications to the rule.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rhona S. Applebaum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line striking through the first few letters of the first name.

Rhona S. Applebaum, Ph.D.
Executive Vice President
Scientific & Regulatory Affairs