



NFPA
The Food Safety People

NATIONAL
FOOD
PROCESSORS
ASSOCIATION

February 24, 2003

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FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket No 03-005N
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

03-005N
03-005N-2
Jenny Scott

**[Docket No. 03-005N] *Listeria* Risk Assessment Technical Meeting;
68 Federal Register 6109; February 6, 2003**

Dear Ms. Riley:

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, food security, 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.

NFPA has long been an advocate of the use of sound science to underpin policy decisions and we support risk assessment as the appropriate tool for prioritizing resources and focusing attention on those areas where sound evidence of true risks exists. We wish to submit the following relevant items of information in advance of the public meeting to be held February 26, as they impact on the FSIS risk assessment.

Attached you will find galley proofs of two publications:

Gombas, D. E., Y. Chen, R.S. Clavero and V.N. Scott. 2003. Survey of *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods. *J. Food Protection* 66 (in press)

Chen, Y., W.H. Ross, V.N. Scott and D.E. Gombas. 2003. *Listeria monocytogenes*: Low levels equal low risk. *J. Food Protection* 66 (in press)

These papers are expected to appear in the April issue of the *Journal of Food Protection*. The survey data will also be made available on the Internet through the JIFSAN Risk Analysis Clearinghouse.

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We will be submitting comments on the Draft FSIS Risk Assessment for *Listeria* in Ready-to-eat Meat and Poultry Products” on or before the March 14 deadline.

Respectfully submitted,



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