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April 6, 2004

FSIS Docket Clerk
Docket #03-025IF
Room 102, Cotton Annex
300 12th and C St., NW
Washington, DC 20250-3700

Dear Sirs:

This letter provides comments in response to Interim Final Rule And Request For Comments, Docket No. 03-025IF, "Prohibition of the Use of Specified Risk Materials for Human Food and Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle."

Sections 309.2 & 309.3

We recommend a modification to the revised language in these sections to make a distinction between disabled, non-ambulatory livestock resulting from recent, acute injuries, as opposed to those who are disabled and non-ambulatory due to an underlying pathological or metabolic condition. Animals that were clinically healthy and recently injured do not pose a risk to human or animal health and do not warrant condemnation. There is no scientific justification for condemnation of an animal injured during transport to the slaughterhouse or during unloading.

We suggest animals with an apparent acute injury (e.g. broken leg, "split out", etc.) be examined by a government veterinarian during ante-mortem inspection. If in the veterinarian's professional judgment the animal has suffered a recent acute injury, the animal could be passed as a suspect with the final disposition made based on post-mortem examination.

Cordially,

Sep Harvin, III
SCAMP President

SH/CC