



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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FSIS Constituent Update

Protecting Public Health Through Food Safety and Food Defense

FSIS Extends Comment Period on Term “Natural”

FSIS has extended the comment period on how to define the term “natural” until March 5.

FSIS held a public meeting on December 12, 2006 to discuss a petition to establish a definition for the voluntary claim “natural.” The agency also gathered comments on conditions under which the claim should be allowed to be used on the labels of meat and poultry products.

The original comment period closed on January 11; however, FSIS has taken this action to respond to requests that were made at and after the December 12 meeting.

To view a transcript from the public meeting, visit FSIS’ Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Natural_Claims_Transcripts.pdf.

FSIS to Hold Regulatory Education Sessions for Small and Very Small Plants

FSIS will hold regulatory education sessions on January 24 and 31 and on February 2, 6 and 28 for the owners and operators of small and very small plants.

The sessions will cover a regulatory walk-through of sanitation standard operating procedures and the hazard analysis and critical control point and rules of practice regulations. The agency has moved forward with plans to expand the regulatory education sessions.

The regulatory education sessions will be held at the following locations:

- Wednesday, January 24 from 5 to 7 p.m., at the Embassy Suites Hotel - Covina, 1211 E. Garvey Street, Covina, Calif.;
- Wednesday, January 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Doubletree Charlottesville, 990 Hilton Heights Road, Charlottesville, Va.;

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Export Requirement Updates



The Library of Export Requirements has been updated to reflect changes in export requirements for the following:

Canada

Mexico

Taiwan

Complete information can be found at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/Regulations_&Policies/Export_Information/index.asp.

Export Tip of the Week

FSIS inspection officials should never sign export documents prepared in a foreign language, nor should they endorse documents issued by a foreign government agency. FSIS inspection officials should only sign documents prepared in English or, in some cases, prepared bilingually and issued by FSIS.

For further information, call FSIS' Office of International Affairs at (202) 720-3473.

Regulatory Education Sessions...

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- Wednesday, January 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the High Plains Power, 230 West Main, Riverton, Wyo.;
- Wednesday, February 28 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Crowne Plaza Madison East Towne, 4402 East Washington Avenue, Madison, Wis.
- Friday, February 2 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Wyoming Department of Agriculture Conference Room, 2219 Carey Avenue, Cheyenne, Wyo;
- Tuesday, February 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Doubletree Albuquerque, 201 Marquette Avenue, Albuquerque, N.M.; and

To register by phone, call (800) 336-3747. Online registration forms and information about upcoming sessions can be found at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/News_&Events/Outreach_Sessions_SVS_Plants/index.asp.

FSIS Issues Supplemental Labeling Guidance and Additional Q & As for Notice 75-06

FSIS recently issued a supplemental labeling guidance and additional questions and answers (Q & As) pertaining to FSIS Notice 75-06, *Verification Instructions for Changes in Label Requirements for Uncooked and Raw, Frozen, Breaded, Boneless Poultry Products*.

The additional labeling guidance and Q & As are intended to provide industry with assistance in developing validation for label cooking instructions for raw and partially cooked, breaded, boneless poultry products as set forth in Notice 75-06 issued on November 13, 2006.

This information supplements labeling guidance currently on

FSIS' Web site entitled, *Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Labeling Policy Guidance for Uncooked, and Raw, Breaded, Boneless Poultry Products*.

To view the labeling guidance and Q & As, visit FSIS' Web site at http://www.fsis.usda.gov/About_FSIS/labeling_&consumer_protection/index.asp.

If you have questions or comments, contact FSIS' Labeling and Consumer Protection Staff (LCPS) at (202) 205-0623 or through FSIS' Technical Service Center at 1-800-233-3935. You can also contact LCPS by e-mail at FSIS.labeling@fsis.usda.gov.