



**AMERICAN DIETETIC ASSOCIATION**

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Food Safety and Inspection Service

USDA  
Room 102  
300 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-3700

01-018P  
01-018P-40  
Susan T. Borra, R.D.

Subject: Docket No. 01-018P

Dear Sir or Madam:

The American Dietetic Association (ADA) represents almost 70,000 food and nutrition professionals serving the public through the promotion of optimal nutrition, health and well being. ADA appreciates this opportunity to submit comments in response to the FSIS request for comments on the elimination of the pizza standard. We support the proposal because we see consumers benefiting from the change.

The current government rules prescribing the minimum meat requirement, the presence of cheese, and the specific type of sauce on a frozen pizza may limit consumers' options available in the retail market place. The **FSIS** proposal would expand the variety of pizzas sold in grocery stores, and therefore would better meet consumer demand, including those that are most healthful.

The American Dietetic Association strives to communicate healthful eating messages to the public that emphasize the total diet, or overall pattern of food eaten. If consumed in moderation with appropriate portion size and combined with regular physical activity, all food can fit into a healthful diet. The developers of the Dietary Guidelines for Americans and the Food Guide Pyramid found that consumers and educators tend to prefer dietary guidance that allows consumers to eat in a way that suits their individual tastes and lifestyles. Elimination of the pizza standard is compatible with a total diet approach and will provide consumers with more choices, as well as better manage individual concerns that span across areas of nutrition and weight control, physiology, lifestyle, environment, and food product safety.

Sincerely,

Susan T. Borra, R.D.  
President