

FSIS Docket Room, (Docket #01-030N)
 U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service
 Room 102, Cotton Annex
 300 12th Street SW
 Washington, D.C., 20250-3700

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01-030N 01-030N-38 Shawn M. Austin
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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my support for the petition on postponing the implementation of the new moisture rule effective Jan. 9, 2002. I have many reasons why I feel this rule should be postponed. The first reason is there was not enough time allowed for preparing a protocol, receiving an answer to the protocol, and for ordering the necessary sampling supplies to carry out the protocol. My next concern pertains to lab equipment and personnel. To perform these samples many labs will have to order additional supplies as well as equipment, many labs are not furnished with drying ovens and these would have to be installed as well as having to train the personnel or possibly hire additional personnel to operate this equipment. My last concern is the time it would take to change to new labels; this is a two-phase process that includes the making of new plates, the printing of new labels, and finally the delivery of these labels. The only fair thing to do would be to postpone the implementation of this regulation to allow for everyone to prepare for the changes. By not postponing this rule, the poultry industry would be shut down and this would eliminate the choice of proteins the consumer can purchase.

Sincerely,



Shawn M. Austin
 QA Manager Tyson Foods, Inc.