

Tyson Foods, Inc.

November 16, 2001

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Danny Shrieves

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


Dear FSIS,

We are in support of the Citizen's Petition extending the effective date of the new Moisture Regulation. The collection of data, analysis of data, and packaging changes to accommodate labeling requirements will take many months and make the postponement of the implementation of the regulation necessary. Below are facts in our operation supporting the postponement.

1. Running the experiments will take 4-6 weeks when you take into account the holiday season.
2. Analyzing the data and testing our over 200 items for moisture will take months.
3. If we factor in seasonal variations in moisture to make labeling accurate year round, we will need 12 months.
4. We have 6 months of packaging on hand for some items.
5. Changing our labeling will take up to 2 months.
6. We will have to purchase drying ovens and staff our labs to be able to run the tests accurately by product.
7. There is a limited amount of label making capacity. If 400 plants are requesting label changes at the same time, these vendors will not be able to handle the number of changes industry wide.

The industry intends to comply with the rule and provide the consumer with accurate retained water information. To do this, however, the industry must have the time to develop new procedures, collect and analyze data, and print packaging material as required.

Sincerely,


 Danny Shrieves
 Quality Assurance Manager
 Tyson Foods, Inc.
 Temperanceville, VA 23442