

From: Scott, Jenny [mailto:JScott@fpa-food.org]
Sent: Friday, April 01, 2005 5:37 PM
To: fsis.regulationscomments@fsis.usda.gov
Cc: neal.golden@fsis.usda.gov; Dopp, Mark (Dopp, Mark);
jhollingsworth@fmi.org; Pretanik Steve (Pretanik, Steve); Mastracchio Ken
(Mastracchio, Ken); ajohnson@turkeyfed.org; Harris, Joe (Harris, Joe);
Henry, Craig; Hontz, Lloyd; Kasper, Evie
Subject: Risk Assessment Comment Period Extension

Attached you will find our request for a 60-day extension of the comment period for the risk assessments on Salmonella and on C. perfringens in ready-to-eat meat and poultry products.

American Meat Institute
Food Products Association
Food Marketing Institute
National Chicken Council
National Meat Association
National Turkey Federation
Southwest Meat Association

<<C-FSIS CP Sal Risk Assessment extension.doc>>

April 1, 2005

Docket Clerk
US Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
300 12th St, SW
Room 102 Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250

[Docket No. 04-001N] Technical Meeting on Risk Assessments of *Salmonella* and of *Clostridium perfringens* in Ready-to-Eat Products; Notice of Availability and Public Meeting; 70 FR 15017; March 24, 2005.

Dear Sir or Madam:

On March 24, 2005 FSIS published a notice of a meeting to be held that same day on risk assessments for *Salmonella* and for *C. perfringens* in ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products. These risk assessments were conducted to help evaluate the public health impact of alternative performance standards for lethality and cooling of RTE meat and poultry products proposed in February 2001 (66 FR 12590).

Comments were solicited at the March 24 meeting at which overviews of the risk assessments were provided. However, these risk assessments were not available until three days before the meeting, and the information provided comprised more than 450 pages. Thus, stakeholders were unable to provide substantial comments at the meeting. The Agency has clearly done an extensive amount of work on these risk assessments, which for the first time are being provided in a format that allows others to modify the inputs to see the impact on risk. Given the importance of these risk assessments in determining performance standards or other risk management strategies that impact a large number of establishments, it is essential that we be provided ample opportunity to review and comment on these documents. We therefore request a 60-day extension of the comment period in order that the most substantive comments possible can be submitted for Agency consideration before regulatory policies are finalized.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Respectfully,

American Meat Institute
Food Products Association
Food Marketing Institute
National Chicken Council

National Meat Association
National Turkey Federation
Southwest Meat Association

cc: Neal Golden - FSIS