



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration  
Washington, DC

OCT 18 2001

4732 '01 NOV -9 AIO:17

Caroline Smith DeWaal  
Director, Food Safety Program  
Center for Food Science in the Public Interest  
Suite 300  
1875 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20009-5728

Dear Ms. Smith DeWaal:

This is in response to your letter of July 26, 2001, to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regarding the safe handling statement requirement for shell eggs. We apologize for the delay in our response.

You stated in your letter that, while the recently finalized requirements for safe handling instructions on shell eggs (65 FR 76092, December 5, 2000) offer a useful reminder to consumers about the risks associated with *Salmonella* Enteritidis, the type size allowed for the statement is too small. You contended that the instructions may be illegible, particularly for elderly consumers. You requested that, if FDA proposes to amend the final rule on the safe handling statement, we reevaluate the type size and readability of the safe handling instructions.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. We will forward a copy of your letter to our Dockets Management Branch to be included with other comments on the safe handling instructions on shell eggs (Docket numbers 98N-1230, 96P-0418, and 97P-0197). If FDA initiates rulemaking to amend its final rule, we will take your comments into consideration.

Sincerely yours,

Christine Lewis Taylor, Ph.D.  
Director  
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling  
and Dietary Supplements  
Center for Food Safety  
and Applied Nutrition

96P-0418

LET 4

PROJECT: 77138

CFSAN EXECUTIVE CORRESPONDENCE

OFFICE: ONPLDS  
LEVEL:

DATE OF DOCUMENT: 2001/07/26 DATE RECEIVED: 2001/08/06 DATE DUE: 2001/09/03  
DATE DONE: / /

FROM: CAROLINE SMITH DEWAAL, DIRECTOR, FOOD-SAFETY PROGRAM CENTER FOR  
SCIENCE IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

SUBJECT: RE: FOOD LABELING, SAFE HANDLING STATEMENTS, LABELING OF SHELL  
EGGS; REFRIGERATION OF SHELL EGGS HELD FOR RETAIL DISTRIBUTION;  
FINAL RULE.

ACTION: (X) PREPARE DIRECT REPLY

SENT TO	SENT FROM	DATE SENT	ASSIGNED
HFS-800	HFS-22CCO	08/06/2001	

INSTRUCTIONS: PLEASE RESPOND DIRECTLY, AND CLOSE OUT OF CTS UPON COMPLETION.

COMMENTS: COPY TO: J. LEVITT, C. LEWIS, AND EOS STAYBACK FILE

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/LET3

See File Number: 97P-0197/LET3  
96P-0418/LET4