



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Dockets
Public Health Service

Food and Drug Administration
Washington, DC

JUN 8 2001

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Mr. James C. Sartori
President
Sartori Food Corporation
107 Pleasant View Road
Post Office Box 258
Plymouth, Wisconsin 53073

Re: Docket No. OOP-1491/CP 1

Dear Mr. Sartori:

This letter is in response to your citizen petition, dated December 20, 2000, requesting that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) amend the Standard of Identity for Parmesan Cheese (21 CFR § 133.165) to reduce the curing time from "not less than 10 months" to "not less than 6 months."

In accordance with 21 CFR § 10.30(e)(2), this letter is to advise you that we have not been able to reach a decision on your petition within the first 180 days of its receipt because of other Agency priorities and the limited availability of resources. Additionally, FDA will not likely take any action on your petition until ongoing related standards modernization activities that would impact your petition progress further.

FDA recognizes the importance of reinventing food standards in a manner that both protects the interest of consumers and provides manufacturers reasonable flexibility in using innovative techniques to produce foods governed by a standard of identity. Consequently, the Agency is currently working with the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture to propose a set of guiding principles by which existing federal food standards of identity may be revised or eliminated, or new ones established. We encourage you and the food manufacturers you represent to provide comments on these guiding principles when the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register. As we

OOP-1491

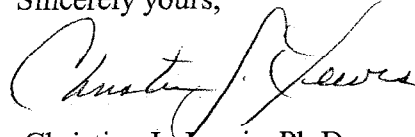
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continue to develop our policy on the modernization of food standards, we will consider how to most appropriately address your petition within FDA's overall strategy to reinvent food standards.

Should you have additional questions, do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine J. Lewis".

Christine J. Lewis, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling
and Dietary Supplements
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition