UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE WASHINGTON, DC

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INDUSTRY SELF-ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST FOR FOOD SECURITY

This notice informs inspection program personnel that on January 28, 2005, the Agency is making publicly available an "Industry Self-Assessment Checklist for Food Security." The Agency created this self-assessment instrument to provide a tool for establishments to assess the extent to which they have employed appropriate security measures in their operations. The Agency developed this instrument from information contained in the *Food Security Guidelines for Food Processors*, published in 2002, and the Agency's vulnerability assessments. The guidelines identify security measures that establishments can adopt to enhance the security of their operations.

It is not mandatory for an establishment to complete the checklist. Inspection program personnel do not have any verification duties related to the checklist, and this notice does not issue any verification procedures to FSIS personnel.

For informational purposes and inquires from establishments, the checklist and the guidelines are available on the FSIS web site at: <u>http://www.fsis.usda.gov/food_security_and_emergency_preparedness/security_guidelines/index.asp</u>

Philip S. Derfler /s/

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