

1 March 2018

(18-1311)

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Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

Original: English

NOTIFICATION

1. Notifying Member: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

If applicable, name of local government involved:

- **2. Agency responsible:** United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS)
- 3. Products covered (provide tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO; ICS numbers should be provided in addition, where applicable): Processed egg products
- 4. Regions or countries likely to be affected, to the extent relevant or practicable:
 - [X] All trading partners
 - [] Specific regions or countries:
- 5. Title of the notified document: Egg Products Inspection Regulations. Language(s): English. Number of pages: 48

https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FSIS-2005-0015-0001 https://members.wto.org/crnattachments/2018/SPS/USA/18 1132 00 e.pdf

6. Description of content: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the egg products inspection regulations by requiring official plants that process egg products (herein also referred to as "egg products plants" or "plants") to develop and implement Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) Systems and Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (Sanitation SOPs) and to meet other sanitation requirements consistent with the meat and poultry regulations. FSIS is proposing to eliminate those current regulatory provisions that are inconsistent with HACCP, Sanitation SOPs, and the proposed sanitation requirements. FSIS is also proposing to specify in the regulations that official plants are required to process egg products to be edible without additional preparation to achieve food safety.

In addition, FSIS is proposing to: Provide for generic approval as part of the prior label approval system for egg products; make changes to labeling requirements for shell eggs consistent with those in the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA's) regulations; require special handling instructions on egg products; eliminate the requirements for prior approval by FSIS of egg products plant drawings, specifications, and equipment; incorporate egg products plants into the coverage of the "Rules of Practice" that the Agency follows when initiating administrative enforcement actions; and change the Agency's interpretation of the requirement for continuous inspection in agency law.

FSIS is also announcing that it is seeking public comment on draft guidance designed to help small and very small plants producing egg products to meet the new regulatory requirements being proposed in this rulemaking. Should the rule become final, FSIS intends to finalize this guidance.

- 7. Objective and rationale: [X] food safety, [] animal health, [] plant protection, [] protect humans from animal/plant pest or disease, [] protect territory from other damage from pests.
- 8. Is there a relevant international standard? If so, identify the standard:
 - [] Codex Alimentarius Commission (*e.g. title or serial number of Codex standard or related text*):
 - [] World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) (e.g. Terrestrial or Aquatic Animal Health Code, chapter number):
 - [] International Plant Protection Convention (e.g. ISPM number):
 - [X] None

Does this proposed regulation conform to the relevant international standard?

[]Yes []No

If no, describe, whenever possible, how and why it deviates from the international standard:

9. Other relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available:

10. Proposed date of adoption (*dd/mm/yy***):** To be determined.

Proposed date of publication (dd/mm/yy): To be determined.

11. Proposed date of entry into force: [] Six months from date of publication, and/or (*dd/mm/yy*): To be determined.

[] Trade facilitating measure

12. Final date for comments: [] Sixty days from the date of circulation of the notification and/or (*dd/mm/yy*): 13 June 2018

Agency or authority designated to handle comments: [] National Notification Authority, [] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

Victoria A. Levine, Program Analyst, Issuances Staff, Office of Policy and Program Development, Food Safety and Inspection Service, US Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Room 6079, South Agriculture Building, Washington, DC 20250-3700; Tel: +(202) 720 5627; Fax: +(202) 690 0486.

13. Text(s) available from: [] National Notification Authority, [] National Enquiry Point. Address, fax number and e-mail address (if available) of other body:

https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=FSIS-2005-0015-0001