



September 18, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR AMI INSPECTION COMMITTEE AND SHELF-STABLE FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION

FROM: SKIP SEWARD AND JIM HODGES

SUBJECT: IMPORT SAFETY

An executive order on import safety (July 18, 2007) mandated that all federal departments and agencies provide recommendations to improve the safety of imported products. An Import Safety Working Group, chaired by Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, will review existing authorities and procedures, develop a Framework for going forward, and identify actions and appropriate steps that can be pursued to promote the safety of imported products. As part of the working group's process, they are requesting input on the following questions.

- Working in partnership, how best can government and industry streamline existing processes to improve import safety?
- In what ways can import safety be improved without unnecessarily increasing regulations?
- As part of this process, how best can government and industry decrease liability exposure and protect product brands?
- How do we improve the partnership between government and industry to better mitigate health and safety threats to global commerce?
- Where are there opportunities in the product life cycle to improve import safety?
- How should industry take greater responsibility for supply chain verification?
- How should industry develop a culture of proactively sharing of best practices?
- What other areas/issues need to be considered?

AMI will attend the public meeting on import safety on October 1, 2007 (www.importsafety.gov). If you have comments on these questions, please submit them to us by October 1st to provide us time to consolidate the AMI members' responses for submission to the working group by October 12th.

This is an opportunity for us to recommend changes in border testing for *Listeria monocytogenes* and other pathogens when the requirements have been verified by the exporting country (*e.g.*, Canada), changes in labeling requirements such that untested products (*e.g.*, beef trim) can be so labeled to improve food safety, and to recommend a more consolidated approach to global auditing through audit harmonization.

Thank you in advance for your ideas on improving import safety.

pc: P.BOYLE
M.DOPP