United States Department of Agriculture
Food Safety and Inspection Service
Washington, D.C. 20250

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Dr. Rui Vargas
Director, Department of Inspection
for Products of Animal Origin
Ministry of Agriculture and Provisions
Division of International Commerce Control
Ministry of Agriculture Annex
Block D, 4th Floor, Room 436A
70043-900 Brasilia DF
BRAZIL

Dear Dr. Vargas:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed two on-site audits of Brazil's meat inspection system. The audits were conducted from July 11 through August 3, 2001 and from January 9 through February 6, 2002. Enclosed are copies of the two final audit reports. Comments from the Government of Brazil have been included in each report as Attachment G. I sincerely apologize for the delay in providing these final audit reports to you.

I would like to thank you for participating in the February 26, 2002 conference call to discuss the audit results from the January 2002 audit. I appreciate your efforts to address the audit findings, especially the immediate institution of monthly supervisory visits in all certified establishments. In addition, we have reviewed the corrective actions taken by the establishments and the Government of Brazil to respond to the audit findings from both the 2001 and 2002 audits. FSIS has determined that the corrective actions satisfactorily address the audit deficiencies.

If you have any questions regarding these audits or need additional information, please contact me at 202-720-3781. My fax number is 202-690-4040 and my email address is sally.stratmoen@fsis.usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Sally Stratmoen JD

Sally Stratmoen
Acting Director
Equivalence Division
Office of International Affairs

Enclosures

cc:
William Westman, Agricultural Counselor, US Embassy, Brasilia
Colleen Magro, Trade Specialist, Embassy of Brazil
Karen Stuck, Acting Dep. Asst. Administrator, OIA
Robert Hoff, FAS Area Officer
Donald Smart, Review Staff, PEER
Sally Stratmoen, Acting Dir.,ED, OIA
Amy Winton, State Department
Nancy Goodwin, ED, OIA
Country File (Brazil FY 2001 and 2002 Audits—Finals to CVO)