



United States Department of Agriculture

---

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue, SW,  
Washington, D.C.  
20250

Louis V. Pugliese  
Quality Assurance Manager  
D'Artagnan LLC  
600 Green Lane  
Union, NJ 07803

October 30, 2020

Dear Mr. Pugliese:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition that you submitted on behalf of the D'Artagnan, LLC dated October 13, 2020. The petition requests that FSIS modify its voluntary inspection regulations for exotic animal species to include imported exotic animal products, such as imported venison products. The petition states that the requested action is needed to allow your company to expand sales of its ground product made from venison imported from New Zealand to States that have "at least equal to" State inspection programs under the Federal meat inspection regulations and in which venison is considered a species amenable to State laws and regulations. According to the petition, the requested action would have no additional cost or financial burden to USDA because voluntary inspection is funded by the requesting company.

Your request is being considered as a rulemaking petition under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA's administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and FSIS's regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development and has been assigned petition number 20-05.

As provided in 9 CFR 392.6, your petition will be made available to the public in the FSIS docket room and will be posted on the FSIS website at:

<https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/regulations/petitions>

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Regulations Development Staff at [mary.porretta@usda.gov](mailto:mary.porretta@usda.gov) if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Hammar".

Melissa Hammar  
Deputy Director  
Regulation Development Staff  
Office of Policy and Program Development