

Student Handout- Module Number Five (5) - Processing Authorities

Processing Authorities

Processing authorities are defined in 9 CFR 431.1

They include a person or persons:

- having expert knowledge of thermal process or acidification requirements
- having access to facilities for making thermal process determinations
- designated by the processor to perform certain functions
- can be employee of firm
- can be outside person or organization

FSIS does not publish a list of processing authorities; recognizes the work, not the person performing the work and is familiar with individuals and organizations performing this type of work.

Processing Authorities do:

1. Processing authorities perform temperature distribution tests using detailed protocols.
2. Processing authorities do heat penetration tests using detailed protocols, calculate processes, and recommend process schedules
3. Processing authorities evaluate process deviations using established protocols and provide product dispositions