



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

Stephen M. Sothmann J.D., M.B.A.
Executive Director
Meat Import Council of America, Inc.
1150 Connecticut Avenue NW, 12th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

July 27, 2023

Dear Mr. Sothmann:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of the Meat Import Council of America (MICA) and the Global Cold Chain Alliance (GCCA) on July 26, 2023. The petition requests that FSIS revise the policy that limits grants of inspection to official import inspection establishments (I-houses) that are located within a 50-mile geographic radius of a U.S. land or sea port-of-entry. Specifically, the petition requests that FSIS approve grants of inspection for I-houses beyond a 50-mile geographic radius of a U.S. land or sea port-of-entry where individual circumstances and conditions justify such action.

Your request is being considered as a petition for policy change under FSIS' regulations on petitions (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 23-06. 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/policy/petitions>

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Regulations Development Staff at 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". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Melissa Hammar
Director
Regulations Development Staff