



United States Department of Agriculture

---

Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

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

Bill Westman  
Executive Director  
Meat Import Council of America  
150 Connecticut Ave. NW, 12th Floor  
Washington, DC 20036  
bill@micausa.org

April 24, 2024

Dear Mr. Westman:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition you submitted on behalf of the Meat Import Council of America (MICA) dated March 15, 2024. The petition requests that FSIS amend its import inspection regulations to extend current re-inspection and verification policies for meat, poultry, and egg products imported from Canada to products imported from additional countries. The petition specifically asks that FSIS amend the regulations to allow countries, in addition to Canada, alternative options for meeting the requirement that the outside containers of all products offered for entry from a foreign country be marked with the official inspection legend. The petition also requests that FSIS amend FSIS Directive 9900.1 to allow re-inspection of product from additional countries to be conducted at the “rear of the open shipping conveyance” when it is “backed into the unloading dock at the import inspection facility” if the type of inspection is determined to be “only Certification and Label Verification.”

Your request is being considered as a petition for rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553(e)), USDA’s administrative regulations (7 CFR 1.28), and 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 24-02. 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](mailto:mary.porretta@usda.gov) if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Melissa Hammar", is positioned above the typed name and title.

Melissa Hammar  
Director  
Regulations Development Staff