



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

Mr. Pedro Beloto
Sampco, Inc.
651 West Washington Blvd., Suite 201
Chicago, IL

MAY 17 2017

Dear Mr. Beloto:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition submitted by you on behalf of Sampco, Inc., dated May 5, 2017. The petition requests that FSIS amend its regulations and other policy documents to establish a consistent policy on the use and labeling of heart meat in certain meat products. As noted in the petition, heart meat is included in the definition of "meat" in 9 CFR 301.2, and FSIS does not limit the use of beef heart meat in chopped beef, ground beef, or hamburger. The petition states that while beef heart meat may be used in unlimited quantities in ground beef and declared on the label as "beef," other FSIS standards, such as the corned beef standard in 9 CFR 319.100, limit the use of heart meat or require special labeling for beef heart meat. The petition also requests that FSIS clarify its policies related to the use of tongue meat and esophagus in standardized products. The petition asserts that clarification on the use and labeling of meat from the heart, tongue, and esophagus is needed for industry to comply with FSIS's generic labeling regulations.

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). It is also considered as a petition for policy change under FSIS's petition regulations. Your petition has been referred to the Office of Policy and Program Development for review, and it has been assigned petition number 17-02. 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:

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

You may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Issuances Staff at (202) 720-5627 if you have any questions regarding the status of your petition.

Sincerely,

Matthew Michael
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development