



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

Mr. Leonard Lang
Import Export Associates Inc.
2034 Coast Guard Drive
Stafford, VA 22554

SEP 01 2017

Dear Mr. Lang:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has received the petition that you submitted on behalf of Import Export Associates, Inc., dated July 21, 2017. The petition requests that FSIS amend its policy on the use of safe handling instructions (SHI) on the protective covering of meat products shipped in a carton that bears all mandatory labeling required for an immediate container. Under the policy, if a protective covering bears a mandatory labeling feature other than the official inspection legend, such as SHI, it is considered as an immediate container and becomes subject to all labeling requirements prescribed by 9 CFR 317.2. The petition requests that FSIS allow protective coverings that do not bear all mandatory labeling features to bear SHI. You submitted the petition on behalf of importers who have had to remove SHI because an incomplete label on a packages in a shipping carton that meets the definition of an immediate container are refused entry by FSIS.

Your request is being considered as a petition for policy change under FSIS's petition regulations (9 CFR part 392). Your petition has been referred to the FSIS Office of Policy and Program Development for review and has been assigned petition number 17-04. 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, Policy Issuances Division, 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