



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

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

JUN 7 2019

Mr. Pedro Beloto
Sampco, Inc.
651 W. Washington Blvd., Suite 201
Chicago, IL 60661

Dear Mr. Beloto:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed its review of your petition, dated May 5, 2017. The petition requests that FSIS amend its regulations regarding limits on the use of beef heart meat in corned beef and related labeling requirements. The petition also requests that FSIS clarify its policies related to the use of tongue meat and esophagus in canned corn beef.

As you know, the standard for corned beef, found in 9 CFR 319.100, lists the meat ingredients from which that product, as well as canned corned beef, may be prepared. Those ingredients are beef briskets, navels, clods, middle ribs, rounds, rumps, or similar cuts. Under this standard, beef heart meat also may be used in corned beef under certain conditions and as up to five percent of the meat ingredients, provided its use is listed in the product ingredient statement. The standard does not provide for the use of tongue meat or esophagus in corned beef.

FSIS has concluded that the available information does not support FSIS amending its regulations to permit the use of beef heart meat in corned beef at levels other than those permitted by the current standard or without labeling that lists the inclusion of beef heart meat. Similarly, available information does not support amending the corned beef standard to allow for the inclusion of beef tongue or esophagus. Therefore, we have decided to deny your petition without prejudice.

You may resubmit your petition with documentation that would support amending the meat inspection regulations as requested. Such documentation might include data on consumer expectations about the composition of corned beef, as well as organoleptic data to show that the quality of the products would not be affected by the inclusion of additional beef heart meat or the inclusion of tongue meat or esophagus.

Mr. Beloto

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In accordance with FSIS regulations, the petition has been posted to the FSIS web site (9 CFR 392.6). The Agency intends to post this response as well. If you have any questions, you may contact Mary Porretta, Petitions Manager, Issuances Staff, at (202) 720-5627.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Michael".

Matthew Michael
Director
Issuances Staff
Office of Policy and Program Development