QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS RELATING TO USE AND LABELING OF INGREDIENTS, INCLUDING FLAVORINGS, PROPRIETARY INGREDIENT MIXES, INGREDIENTS IN STANDARDIZED AND NON-STANDARDIZED FOODS, AND PROTEIN HYDROLYSATES

II. PROPRIETARY INGREDIENT MIXTURES AND INGREDIENTS IN STANDARDIZED AND NON-STANDARDIZED FOODS

Question: Do FDA certified color additives and their lakes have to be individually declared in the ingredients statement?

Answer: Yes. According to FDA rules (21 CFR 101.22 (K) (1), certified color additives and their lakes are distinct ingredients and, thus, must be declared individually, e.g., "FD&C Red #40" or "Red 40," in the ingredients statement and not by a grouped term such as "coloring."

Question: Do FDA certified color additives and their lakes have to be individually declared when added to the casings for sausage products and the casings are removed but the surface color effect remains?

Answer: Yes. Certified colors must be declared whenever used. In situations where colored casings on sausage products impart a color to the product, the manufacturer must continue to apply the product name qualifier "Casing Colored," and may either include the name of the certified color in the qualifier (e.g., "Artificially Colored with FD&C Red #40," or may include it in the ingredients statement of the sausage product.

Question: Does an FD&C color, e.g., Red #3 or Red #40, have to be declared in the ingredients statements of meat and poultry products when it is added to cure mixes as a tint to distinguish nitrite from salt?

Answer: No. The policy has always been that since the color does not function as a color additive in the meat or poultry product, it is considered to be incidental and does not require declaration.

Color Additives FSIS requires color additives or the lake of a color additive subject to FDA certification to be identified by its common or usual name or the abbreviated names such as “FD&C Red No. 40,” “Red 40,” “FD&C Blue No. 1 Lake,” or “Blue 1 Lake.” Color additives not subject to certification may be declared generically such as “Artificial Color” or “Color Added,” or they may be designated as “Colored with ____” or “_____ color,” with the blank filled with the name of the color additive. Products containing any artificial coloring must note that fact on the immediate container of the product or, if there is none, the product itself.

Casings Some hot dogs have a casing, or a thin skin. If the species of the casing is different than that of the hot dog, the label must say so. For example, if a turkey hot dog has a pork casing, the label must list the pork casing on the ingredients list. If the casing is artificially colored, the label must indicate this as well.