



**Food Safety and Inspection Service  
 United States Department of Agriculture  
 Washington, D.C. 20250-3700**

**December 1999**

**FSIS PROVIDES SUPPORT FOR SMALL AND VERY SMALL PLANTS FOR LABEL APPROVAL**

The Labeling and Additives Policy Division (LAPD) of FSIS has implemented revised labeling evaluation procedures for the prior label approval program. These procedures were implemented on September 29, 1999, and ended face-to-face appointments with expediter firms for label approvals. The procedures are now based on a first-come, first-served basis, allowing equity for anyone submitting labels for approval.

In an effort to assure that small businesses, i.e., small and very small meat and poultry processors, are not at a disadvantage with the implementation of these new procedures, LAPD has developed several ways to assure the accurate and expeditious evaluation of labels for small processors with minimal time delay. These efforts include: designating a member of the staff, Rosalyn Murphy, to be the liaison for facilitating labeling issue resolution for small businesses; assuring ample access to labeling staff and providing information through a Web site that is under development. Small processors will be allowed to fax submissions of labels for evaluations. They will also be able to have labels evaluated the same day they are submitted in a documented emergency situation. Procedures have been initiated whereby small businesses who get back labels evaluated by the label evaluation staff, and who have questions about the labels, can arrange a consultative phone appointment with the labeling staff member who performed the label review. All small and very small meat and poultry producers and processors are encouraged to use the generic label approval system, as well as to contact the Division directly for labeling support. For further information contact the FSIS LAPD at (202) 205-0279.

**For More Information:**

Technical Inquiries:	Office of the National HACCP Small Plant Coordinator	(202) 205-0619
	Small Plant Demonstration Project Office	(202) 720-3219
	(Technical Assistance Workshops)	
	HACCP Hotline—Technical Service Center	(800) 233-3935
Media Inquiries:		(202) 720-9113
Congressional Inquiries:		(202) 720-3897
Constituent Inquiries:		(202) 720-8594
Consumer Inquiries:	Call the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline	(800) 535-4555
	In the Washington, DC, area	(202) 720-3333
		(800) 256-7072
FSIS Web site:	<i>www.fsis.usda.gov</i> (under HACCP Implementation)	
HACCP Materials Database:	FSIS Web site at <i>www.fsis.usda.gov</i> (under HACCP Implementation)	

**For Further Information Contact:**

FSIS Constituent Affairs Program  
 Phone: (202) 720-8594  
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