



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

OCT 19 2012

Mr. Barry Carpenter, CEO
National Meat Association
1970 Broadway, Suite 825
Oakland, CA 94612
Norfolk, VA 23510

Dear Mr. Carpenter:

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) has completed its review of the petition submitted by the National Meat Association requesting that the Agency amend its current policy in order to permit retail display caddies that contain meat and poultry products (jerky and snack sticks) to bear the mark of inspection and applicable nutrition information. Some distributors want to ship display caddies without the use of a master shipping container to the smaller retailers. In addition, some retailers want to use display caddies that bear the mark of inspection and nutrition information.

The Agency has decided to grant the petition. FSIS intends to delete the reference to the labeling of retail display caddies in the Food Standards and Labeling Policy Book and issue guidance on its Web site explaining that display caddies may bear the mark of inspection and nutrition information.

The petition also requested a one-year delay for the effective date of this change to allow establishments time to exhaust current label inventories.

A delay is not necessary. Current regulations allow, but do not require, display caddies that contain meat and poultry products to bear the mark of inspection and applicable nutrition information (9 CFR 316.13, 381.115, 317.300, and 381.400). Therefore, the industry has the option to continue using display caddies without the mark of inspection or nutrition information.

If you have any questions regarding the status of the policy amendment, please contact Mr. Jeff Canavan, Deputy Director, Labeling and Program Delivery Division, Office of Policy and Program Development, at (301) 504-0879.

Sincerely,

Alfred V. Almanza
Administrator
Food Safety Inspection Service