

## **Requirements Change for Importing Products that Contain Small Amounts of Meat and Poultry.**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) regulates meat, poultry, and processed egg products that enter into the United States. A recent food safety incident involving what are traditionally considered low-risk food products, including the intentional contamination of powdered milk with melamine distributed worldwide, means that FSIS will now play a direct role to protect American consumers by ensuring that all of these ingredients are safe.

Effective June 22, 2009, importers must be able to provide documented evidence to confirm that the meat and/or poultry ingredient used in the food product comes from an approved source. The supporting documents, which can take various forms, must be provided to ensure all ingredients meet approval before the USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) permit is issued.

FSIS has published the "Import Permit Guide for Products with Small Amounts of Meat and Poultry" that can be viewed at: [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Import Permits Guide.pdf](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/PDF/Import_Permits_Guide.pdf).

Questions for FSIS may be directed to FSIS at the following e-mail address: [permits@fsis.usda.gov](mailto:permits@fsis.usda.gov) or at Toll Free number (888-287-7194).

### **Next Steps for Products Containing Processed Egg Products**

For products containing processed egg products as ingredients, FSIS expects to not implement procedures for several months due to the more complicated process of ascertaining whether processed eggs or shell eggs are used in the food products.

For the next 12-18 months, FSIS will conduct outreach to importers, manufacturers of products containing small amounts of meat and poultry ingredients, industry associations, and other interested parties.

If you have any questions, please contact your NGJ account representative, or send an e-mail to [compliance.us@ngjensen.com](mailto:compliance.us@ngjensen.com).

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