

Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures

NOTIFICATION

1.	Member to Agreement notifying: <u>UNITED STATES</u> If applicable, name of local government involved:
2.	Agency responsible: Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service
3.	Products covered (tariff item number(s) as specified in national schedules deposited with the WTO. ICS numbers may be provided in addition, where applicable): Poultry
4.	Title and number of pages of the notified document: Continuous Chilling of Split Poultry Portions (4 pages)
5.	Description of content: The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is proposing to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Regulations to specify that the continuous immersion chilling of the front or rear portions of transversely-split carcasses is permitted. The existing regulations permit the continuous chilling of whole carcasses or "major portions", including front or rear portions, resulting from trimming or salvage. This proposal would define "major portions" to include the front or rear portions of transversely-split carcasses, without identifying the operations creating the portions. This proposed change would afford additional flexibility to poultry establishments in adopting efficient production techniques, such as on-line carcass splitting, that meet Food Safety Performance Standards. This proposal is compatible with FSIS initiatives addressing faecal contamination and moisture absorption of raw poultry products.
6.	Objective and rationale: Food safety
7.	An international standard, guideline or recommendation does not exist [X]. If an international standard, guideline or recommendation exists, whenever possible, identify deviations:
8.	Relevant documents and language(s) in which these are available: 62 FR 31017, 6 June 1997; 9 CFR Part 381
9.	Proposed date of adoption: To be determined

10.	Proposed date of entry into force: The effective date will be given upon publication of the final rule in the Federal Register
11.	Final date for comments: 5 August 1997 Agency or authority designated to handle comments: Food Safety and Inspection Service
12.	Texts available from: National enquiry point [] or address, telefax number and E-mail address (if available) of other body: United States SPS Enquiry Point USDA/FAS/OFSTS Attn: Carolyn F. Wilson Room 5545 South Agriculture Building 14th and Independence Washington, D.C. 20250 Tel: (202) 720 2239 Fax: (202) 690 0677 E-mail address: Wilsonc@fas.usda.gov