



06/13/01  
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# Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

May 8, 2001

Committee On Appropriations

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Dr. Christine J. Lewis  
Director  
Office of Nutritional Products, Labeling and dietary Supplements  
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition  
Food and Drug Administration  
200 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20204

Dear Dr. Lewis:

The final rule for the Safe Handling Instructions for labeling of shell eggs issued December 5th and developed by the Food and Drug Administration is supported by both industry and consumer groups. Its purpose is to further the decline in the Salmonella illnesses associated with eggs. But to accomplish that objective, the message should be located where it will have the most good.

The rule specifies that the safe handling message be on the outside top panel of egg cartons, known as the principal display panel (PDP). Research conducted by the USDA in association with the University of Georgia shows that 91.5% of consumers open the egg carton to inspect for quality. Eggs are a unique product in a unique package. This safe handling instruction on the inside lid of the egg carton could be offered as an option for placement of this message. 21 CFR §101.1 under definitions of "principal display panel" and "information panel" note that the PDP is that part which "is most likely to be displayed, presented, shown, or examined under customary conditions of display for retail sale." With more than 90% of consumers opening the egg carton to examine for quality, messages in the inside lid will be "examined under customary conditions". Furthermore, the nutrition facts label is located on the inside lid of egg cartons so that informed consumers already view this location for important information.

I am writing to encourage FDA to consider, as an option, the inside lid of egg cartons for this important information to be conveyed to our nation's consumers. Thank you very much for your attention to this request.

Yours sincerely,

  
Jack Kingston