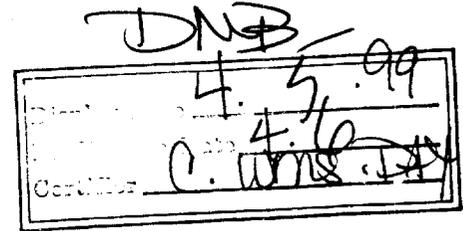


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 98P-1121]



Grated Parmesan Cheese Deviating From Identity Standard; Temporary Permit for Market Testing

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing that a temporary permit has been issued to Kraft Foods, Inc., to market test a product designated as “100% Grated Parmesan Cheese” that deviates from the U.S. standards of identity for parmesan cheese and grated cheeses. The purpose of the temporary permit is to allow the applicant to measure consumer acceptance of the product, identify mass production problems, and assess commercial feasibility, in support of a petition to amend the standard of identity for parmesan cheese.

DATES: This permit is effective for 15 months, beginning on the date the food is introduced or caused to be introduced into interstate commerce, but not later than *(insert date 90 days after date of publication in the Federal Register)*.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Loretta A. Carey, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-158), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-205-5099.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with 21 CFR 130.17 concerning temporary permits to facilitate market testing of foods deviating from the requirements of the standards of identity promulgated under section 401 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 341), FDA is giving notice that a temporary permit has been issued to Kraft Foods, Inc., Three Lakes Dr., Northfield, IL 60093.

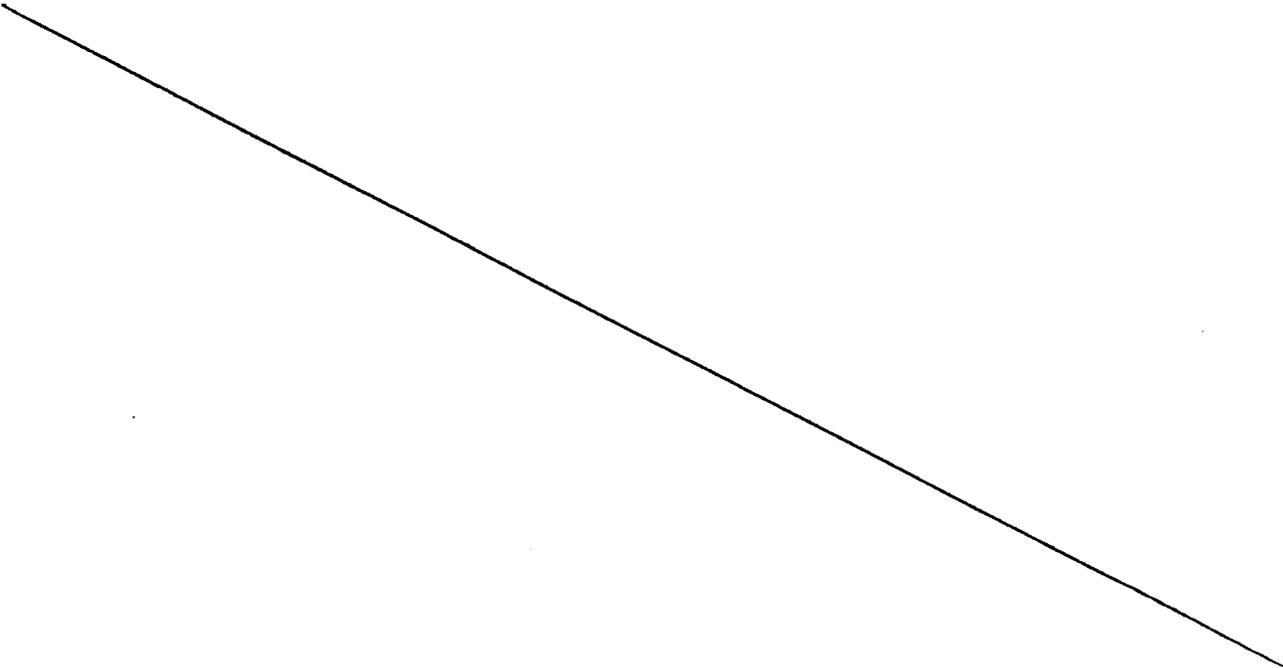
NTP/

The permit covers 86 million pounds of interstate marketing tests products identified as “grated parmesan cheese” that deviate from the U.S. standard of identity for parmesan cheese (21 CFR 133.165) and grated cheeses (21 CFR 133.146) in that the product is formulated by using a different enzyme technology that fully cures the cheese in 6 months rather than 10 months. The test product meets all the requirements of the standards with the exception of this deviation. Because test preferences vary by area, along with social and environmental differences, the purpose of this permit is to test the product throughout the United States.

Under this temporary permit, the parmesan cheese will be test marketed as grated parmesan cheese. The test product will bear the name “100% Grated Parmesan Cheese.”

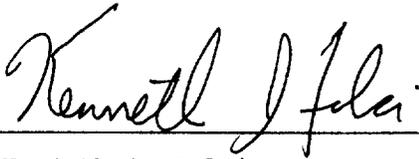
This permit provides for the temporary marketing of 86 million pounds of grated parmesan cheese in retail containers of various sizes. The test product will be manufactured at Kraft Foods, Inc., 10800 Avenue 184, Tulare, CA 93274. The product will then be shipped to Kraft Foods Inc., 1007 Town Line Rd., Wausau, WI 54401, where it is aged, grated, and packaged for distribution. The product will be distributed throughout the United States.

The information panel of the labels will bear nutrition labeling in accordance with 21 CFR 101.9. Each of the ingredients used in the food must be declared on the labels as required by the applicable sections of 21 CFR part 101.



This permit is effective for 15 months, beginning on the date the food is introduced or caused to be introduced into interstate commerce, but not later than (*insert date 90 days after date of publication in the Federal Register*).

Dated: 3/29/99
March 29, 1999



Kenneth J. Fabci
Acting Director
Office of Food Labeling
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition

[FR Doc. 99-???? Filed ??-??-99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160-01-F

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