ACTION ALERT

FDA Wants to Eliminate Labeling of Irradiated Foods

DATES: Written comments must be submitted by May 18, 1999. 45

ADDRESSES: Submit written comments and supporting material to the Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia A. Hansen, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS-206), Food and Drug Administration, 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202-418-3093.
Email at: FDADockets@fda.gov or http://www.fda.gov

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has began soliciting public comment about whether changes are needed for federal regulations requiring irradiated food to be labeled as such.

Currently, the FDA requires that retail packages or displays of irradiated food include both the logo for irradiation and a statement like "treated by irradiation," and that such notices be prominently displayed. The FDA is asking whether irradiation labeling should be less conspicuously displayed, such as being included as part of a list of ingredients.
(Pro-irradiation groups have argued against the necessity of prominent labeling, or the necessity of labeling, since the process has been deemed safe. They see requiring overt labeling as dissuading consumer acceptance of irradiated foods.)
However, others argue prominent labeling is needed in order to give shoppers a choice between products.

Comments: As a consumer, I want the CHOICE of having irradiated foods or not. For me to do this (have this choice) I am asking that irradiated foods cont to be labeled prominently by including both the logo and statement "Treated with irradiation."

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If emailing your comments, please send us a copy at: safefood@cp.duluth.mn.us

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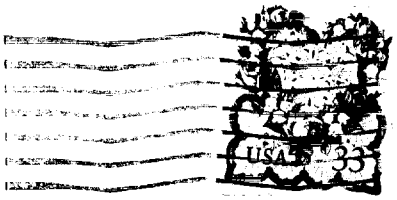

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