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11 May 2004

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Dear Sirs,

**Prior Notice (PN) of Imported food Shipments – Docket No 2002N-0278**

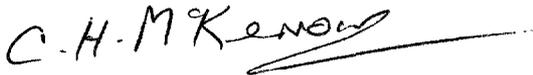
The Scotch Whisky Association welcomes the opportunity that FDA is providing for further comments on the Interim final rule concerning the Prior Notice of Imported Food under the Bioterrorism Act 2002. It is noted that the deadline for their submission is 14 May 2004.

Given the in-depth questions that the FDA has specifically raised and their major implications for food exporters to the US and their US importers, the Association respectfully asks whether the FDA would consider extending the comment period for a further term. This would allow its member companies adequate time to deliberate and consult fully on the complex set of questions and, in response, provide their considered assessment.

It is also relevant that, on 14 April, FDA published two other Notices requesting comments relating to particular aspects of the Bioterrorism legislation, all of which it requires by 14 May. The Association believes that it is not realistic to expect that proper consideration can be given and considered responses provided on these three particular comment requests by this deadline.

Accordingly, the Association would be grateful if the FDA would agree to its request for an extension of the comment period.

Yours faithfully,



C H McKerrow (Miss)  
International Affairs Department

(in duplicate)

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