



May 11, 2004

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
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To whom it may concern:

The following comments are being submitted in response to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) proposal of May 9, 2003 titled "Prior Notice of Imported Food Under the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Docket # 2002N-0278) which has been reopened until May 14, 2004.

IFSA, the International Inflight Food Service Association, is the trade association representing those providing approximately 300 million meals to the traveling public. Our membership includes over 70 airlines, approximately 60 caterers and nearly 200 supplier companies.

Our members are extremely concerned about the potential effect of the Prior Notice regulations on the day-to-day operation of both airlines and caterers. We, perhaps more than any other American industry, understand the necessity to protect this country from terrorist activity. We strongly support reasonable measures to ward off any bioterrorist threat to our food supply. However, **we do not understand the need** for alerting the Food and Drug Administration and/or the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) that there will be some leftover unopened cans of soda (most manufactured domestically) and unopened small bottles of liquor (to be held in bonded storage) on flights inbound to the U.S. and intended for use on later flights. There is no danger to the American public from this operation. Additionally, there is no possible way to determine at "wheels up" what will remain upon landing in the U.S.

IFSA asks that the final Prior Notice rule clearly exempt the beverages and liquor offered for sale or service aboard airlines. Such exemption will allow the Federal regulatory agencies to concentrate their efforts on the parts of the food supply that pose some real risk from intentional contamination and let our industry focus on safely and economically serving airline passengers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Currie".

Mike Currie
President

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2002N-0278

cc: Julie Butner, Chair, Government Affairs & Education Committee
Tom Schwarz, IFSA Food Safety Consultant