



November 5, 2007

Division of Dockets Management
(HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF COMMENT PERIOD /
ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD

RE: [Docket No. 2007N-0277] Food Labeling: Use of Symbols to
Communicate Nutrition Information, Consideration of Consumer Studies
and Nutritional Criteria; Public Hearing; Request for Comments

Dear Sir/Madam:

The Grocery Manufacturers/Food Products Association (GMA/FPA) represents the world's leading food, beverage and consumer products companies. The association promotes sound public policy, champions initiatives that increase productivity and growth and helps to protect the safety and security of the food supply through scientific excellence. The GMA/FPA board of directors is comprised of chief executive officers from the Association's member companies. The \$2.1 trillion food, beverage, and consumer packaged goods industry employs 14 million workers, and contributes over \$1 trillion in added value to the nation's economy.

GMA/FPA respectfully requests that FDA extend the comment period for the docket noted above, and hold open the administrative record on the referenced FDA public hearing, for an additional sixty days, until January 11, 2008. Extending the comment period and holding open the administrative record would permit the interested public to respond fully to the issues explored at the September 10 -11, 2007 public hearing.

GMA/FPA notes that, as of the date of this letter, the transcript and presentations from the September 10 – 11 public hearing are not yet available on FDA's web site. In addition, physical attendance at the September meeting was very limited, so many individuals that wished to participate in the hearing could not do so. While an audio web cast recording is available, it is a cumbersome reference, and it contains no visual material, so that it is not currently possible to refer to the symbols illustrated in many presentations given at the hearing. Recently, FDA-CFSAN has allowed an administrative record to be open for four months after the November 29, 2007 public hearing on the regulation of salt.

For the reasons noted above, GMA/FPA respectfully requests that FDA extend the comment period, and hold the administrative record open for the September 10 – 11, 2007 public hearing on use of symbols to communicate nutrition, until January 11, 2008.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Henry", with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Craig Henry, Ph.D.
Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer
Scientific and Regulatory Affairs