

## Proposed Rule on Interstate Shipment of State-Inspected Meat



NICHE MEAT PROCESSOR  
ASSISTANCE NETWORK

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[www.nichemeatprocessing.org](http://www.nichemeatprocessing.org)

### Outline

- Overview of Proposed Program
- Messy Details and NMPAN Comments
- Comments from Bob Ehart of NASDA

## Plants That Qualify

- In states offering state inspection (27)
- Average 25 employees or less, 35 max
- Meet Federal Inspection requirements (including SSOPs, HACCP, labeling)

## Changes Plants Will Have to Make

- Not much, if you operate under a state inspection program that has adopted federal regulations verbatim
  - Could stay in state program at same time
- Periodic inspection and review by FSIS “Select Establishment Coordinator” for your states – probably at least quarterly.
- New label creation and review with “Select Establishment” number

## Proposed New Inspection Mark



(Mock up by NMPAN – NOT OFFICIAL)

## Requirements for States

- States must enter into a new cooperative agreement with USDA-FSIS showing they offer inspection “the same as” FSIS.
  - Use Federal Regulations
  - FSIS inspection methods
  - Same Equipment
  - Same Sampling Techniques & Lab Analysis
- Open books to FSIS on Select Establishments

## Messy Details and NMPAN Comments

- Counting of Employees
- “Deselection”
  - Transition to Federal
  - Reversion to State
- Cost and Workload Burden for Plants and States

## Cost to Plants

- Subject to FSIS funding, could get a “transition grant” for HACCP training for one person
- “In addition, the Agency estimates that the cost for State- inspected establishments to fully comply with Federal standards, as required by the law, will range from \$1,500 to \$50,000. According to most State Directors, the cost to very small establishments that do not need to make structural modifications to their facilities is likely to be \$5,000 to \$10,000.” (pg. 47657)

## Challenges for states: two bosses

“To verify that designated personnel are providing inspection services in compliance with the Acts, **the SEC for the establishment**, in coordination with the State, **will verify that the designated personnel are correctly applying Federal inspection methodology**, making decisions based upon the correct application of this methodology, accurately documenting their findings, and, when authorized to do so, implementing enforcement actions...” (Fed. Reg. 47655)

## Bob Ehart, Public Policy Director



## How to Submit Comments Online

- Go to: [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov)
  - Under Document Type select “Proposed Rules” and search for “**FSIS-2008-0039**”
  - Should find only ONE item ID#  
FSIS-2008-0039-0001
  - Next to the rule name, under Actions, choose “Submit a Comment.”
  - **WARNING:** make sure you comment on the rule itself, not on someone else’s comment.

## Comments By Mail

- Send to:  
Docket Clerk  
USDA-FSIS  
Room 2-2127 George Washington Carver Center  
5601 Sunnyside Avenue  
Beltsville, MD 20705
- **Must Include** – “Docket No.  
FSIS-2008-0039” in the subject of the letter.