

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE****Food Safety and Inspection Service****9 CFR Parts 303, 308, 381, and 416**

[Docket No. 96-037R]

**Sanitation Requirements for Official Meat and Poultry Establishments; Comment Period Reopening**

**AGENCY:** Food Safety and Inspection Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed rule; reopening of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is reopening the comment period for its proposal to revise the regulatory requirements concerning sanitation in official meat and poultry establishments (FSIS Docket No. 96-037P; "Sanitation Requirements for Official Meat and Poultry Establishments"). The comment period closing date for that proposal will now be Monday, November 10, 1997.

**DATES:** Comments must be received on or before November 10, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Submit one original and two copies of written comments to FSIS Docket Clerk, Docket #96-037P, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12th St. SW., Washington, DC 20250-3700. All comments submitted in response to this proposal will be available for public inspection in the Docket Clerk's Office between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Patricia F. Stolfa, Assistant Deputy Administrator, Regulations and Inspection Methods, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, (202) 205-0699.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

The Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) is reopening the comment period for its proposal "Sanitation Requirements for Official Meat and Poultry Establishments" (FSIS

Docket No. 96-037P; 62 FR 45045, August 25, 1997). Shortly after the comment period for that proposal opened, FSIS released information that mischaracterized the provisions concerning the use of nonfood compounds. In order to alleviate any confusion regarding the sanitation proposal and to clarify FSIS policy in regard to nonfood compounds, FSIS is publishing, elsewhere in this issue of the **Federal Register**, a retraction of the erroneous information (FSIS Docket No. 97-062N, "Retraction of an Announcement Concerning Nonfood Compounds and Proprietary Substances"). In order to ensure that the public has ample opportunity to submit meaningful comments on the proposal to revise the sanitation regulations, FSIS is reopening the comment period for that proposal.

Done in Washington, DC: October 22, 1997.

**Thomas J. Billy,**

*Administrator, Food Safety Inspection Service.*

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