

From: "Basu, Pat - FSIS"
To:
Cc: "Dearfield, Kerry - FSIS" , "Bennett, Patty - FSIS" , "Goldman, David - Commissioned Corps - FSIS"
Date: 11/23/2011 10:21 AM
Subject: RE: Transmission of draft ammonia tox assessment

Hi Norman:

First, let me apologize for the delay in our response. Both Dr. Patty Bennett and I have reviewed the documents you have forwarded us for pre-peer review comments.

Ammonia can and rarely does expose our Federal employees who are stationed for in-plant inspection duties. However, these worker exposure and safety incidents are dealt through NIOSH and state health and safety official. Meat and poultry products in Federally inspected facilities have been known to be exposed to gaseous or liquid ammonia. However, in most of these cases, the product is trimmed and passed, as long as there was no remaining odor or visible signs of contamination.

As mentioned in the document, EPA currently has no RfD established for ammonia. This may be of value to us in the future, to determine human food safety in case of product contamination. As for concerns with setting a RfC, this is beyond the scope of this Agency's mandate. Therefore, at this time, we have no further comments on the documents you have provided us.

Thanks for including FSIS in this process. Have a very nice Thanksgiving.

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