



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety
and Inspection
Service

Washington, D.C.
20250

JAN 11 2008

Dr. Tony Zohrab
Director, Market Access
New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA)
South Tower, 86 Jervois Quay
PO Box 2835
Wellington, New Zealand

Dear Dr. Zohrab:

The purpose of this letter is to respond to your letter dated January 10, 2008. In the letter, the New Zealand Food Safety Authority (NZFSA) provided a justification for identifying a lot as being isolated to a single shift or days production by an establishment within a consignment in the event of a positive finding by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) at the port of entry.

Based on a review of the information provided, FSIS has determined that the NZFSA definition of a lot as meets the criteria outlined in the FSIS December 20, 2007 letter. Therefore, in the event of a positive finding at the port of entry, FSIS believes that the NZFSA food safety program when operated in a manner as understood by FSIS will ensure that any large scale contamination event will be prevented.

As outlined in your letter, following the notification of a positive finding, FSIS will expect that NZFSA conduct a thorough review of the affected establishment and provide a copy of the conclusion to FSIS. In the event that NZFSA is unable to respond with sufficient technical justification to a notification of detection by FSIS, further actions may be required.

I hope that this information is useful.

Sincerely,

Dr. William James
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of International Affairs