

## DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE



Division of Measurement Standards  
8500 Fruitridge Road  
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DMS NOTICE  
QC - 03 - 5

October 30, 2003

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: Labeling of Products Sold in Marinade Solutions**

The Department has recently requested direction from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regarding labeling on fresh meat products sold in marinade solutions, which have been a source of recent concern. The following is the direction we have received from USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Labeling and Consumer Protection staff:

It is legal to sell fresh meat products in marinade solution, if those products are properly labeled.

Proper labeling means complying with standard labeling requirements including identification of products with wording such as "Beef containing \_\_\_% solution, in solution". The percent solution addresses the percentage of solution absorbed by the meat block. The words "in solution" adequately addresses the rest of the solution.

In the example above, this wording could be used as long as beef comprises 51% or more of the net weight of the package. The net weight includes all solution. If beef comprises 49% or less of the net weight, then the wording above could no longer be used. For example, it would have to state "Solution with up to 49% beef".

It is our understanding that this policy is currently being used by the USDA statewide. If you have any questions, please contact Roger Macey, Branch Chief, Compliance and Evaluation Branch at (916) 229-3000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Cleary".

Mike Cleary  
Director  
(916) 229-3000