



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

1400 Independence Ave., SW-Stop 0291
Room 612 - Cotton Annex
Washington, DC 20250

This letter is a reminder of our service that provides equipment review and acceptance for the meat and poultry slaughter, processing, and packaging industries. This service is offered by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), Dairy Programs, Dairy Grading Branch. The equipment acceptance program is a voluntary, fee-for-service activity that replaces the mandatory review program previously performed by the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service.

In recent years, numerous instances of bacterial contamination of meat and poultry products have resulted in many recalls. The primary goal of our equipment review and acceptance program is to advise processors and equipment fabricators on designing sanitary, easy to clean equipment with the goal of preventing product contamination and promoting consumer confidence.

Compliance with the criteria of the ANSI/NSF/3-A 14159-1-2000: *Hygiene Requirements for the Design of Meat and Poultry Processing Equipment* standard will be evaluated by USDA/AMS acting as an independent third party. If USDA/AMS determines that the equipment design and fabrication substantially meet the requirements of the standard, we will issue a certificate of acceptance and add that equipment to our Accepted Equipment list. A USDA/AMS certification of acceptance provides a high degree of assurance that accepted equipment is designed for easy disassembly for cleaning and inspection, or is designed to be cleaned in place. The official USDA Accepted Equipment logo shown here may be displayed on accepted equipment and in related advertising materials.



We encourage you to purchase equipment that has been certified by USDA/AMS as being in compliance with the ANSI/NSF standard referenced above.

If you would like to obtain additional information about our program, or if you would like to initiate an equipment evaluation, please contact Evan Stachowicz or Angie Salinas at (202) 720-8307. More information about our program is available at our website http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/meat_poultry.htm.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the ANSI/NSF standard, call 1-800-699-9277 or visit <http://www.techstreet.com>.