

USDA/FNS/Food Distribution

Project No. 1 (Completed)

Project No 1: Process Control Certification Program (PCCP)
State Partner: All States receiving product from approved PCCP processors
Industry Partners: Pierre Foods, H &H Meat Company and John Soules Foods

Reference: To view and/or download the procedures and further information on this pilot, click on the following Agricultural Marketing Service Web Site link: www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/mgc/cert.htm

Scope: All products processed by approved PCCP processors are produced under this program. State and/or recipient agency approval is not required.

Background: Under traditional grading, AMS meat graders continuously monitor each line running donated commodities. The traditional system only requires graders to count and record cases of donated commodity processed and end products shipped. Apart from AMS grading processors must have Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points in place.

Project Description: AMS Meat Grading and Certification Branch works with individual processors to perform risk analysis of all processes, which include: 1) donated product traceability, 2) product formulation, 3) portion size, 4) ingredient amounts, 5) cooking and freezing temperatures, 6) packaging and 7) shipment of finished products to states or school districts. This pilot tests streamlining the checks and increasing the observations of graders in the plant to improve accountability, record keeping and trace-ability of donated food processing. The process control certification program is unique to each facility, uses in-house quality control systems and forms, and is designed in full cooperation between the plant and the grading staff.

Status: The PCCP pilot has been completed. In July 2001, USDA announced that this program would be available to other processors on an approval basis. The PCCP is appropriate for companies with quality control programs that include using bar coding on pallets and containers for tracing all products from the raw material through processing to the consumer.

The contact party is listed below if you would like additional information:

AMS:
Larry Meadows, Chief
Meat Grading and Certification Branch
Agriculture Marketing Service - USDA
Larry.Meadows@usda.gov

Last Updated: 04/21/2003