

and be prepared by the use of procedures common or usual to such products insofar as specific ingredients or procedures are not prescribed or prohibited by the provisions of this subchapter.

§319.2 Products and nitrates and nitrites.

Any product, such as frankfurters and corned beef, for which there is a standard in this part and to which nitrate or nitrite is permitted or required to be added, may be prepared without nitrate or nitrite and labeled with such standard name when immediately preceded with the term “Uncured” in the same size and style of lettering as the rest of such standard name: *Provided*, That the product is found by the Administrator to be similar in size, flavor, consistency, and general appearance to such product as commonly prepared with nitrate and nitrite: *And provided further*, That labeling for such product complies with the provisions of §317.17(c) of this subchapter.

[44 FR 48961, Aug. 21, 1979]

§319.5 Mechanically Separated (Species).

(a) Mechanically Separated (Species) is any finely comminuted product resulting from the mechanical separation and removal of most of the bone from attached skeletal muscle of livestock carcasses and parts of carcasses and meeting the other provisions of this paragraph. Examples of such product are “Mechanically Separated Beef”, “Mechanically Separated Veal”, “Mechanically Separated Pork”, and “Mechanically Separated Lamb”. At least 98 percent of the bone particles present in such product shall have a maximum size no greater than 0.5 millimeter in their greatest dimension and there shall be no bone particles larger than 0.85 millimeter in their greatest dimension. The product resulting from the separating process shall not have a calcium content exceeding 0.75 percent, as a measure of a bone solids content of not more than 3 percent, and shall have a minimum PER of 2.5 (except as modified in paragraph (e)(1) of this section). Such product also shall have a protein content of not less than 14 percent and a fat content of not more than 30 per-

cent, or it shall be deemed to be product for processing. Such product failing to meet the bone particle size, calcium, or PER requirements of this paragraph shall only be used in producing animal fats. Where such product meets the bone particle size, calcium, and PER requirements of this paragraph, it may also be used in the formulation of meat food products in accordance with §319.6.

(b)–(d) [Reserved]

(e)(1) An essential amino acid content of at least 33 percent of the total amino acids presents in “Mechanically Separated (Species)” shall be accepted as evidence of compliance with the protein quality requirement set forth in paragraph (a) of this section. For purposes of this paragraph, essential amino acid content includes isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, threonine, and valine content, and the total amino acids present include isoleucine, leucine, lysine, methionine, phenylalanine, threonine, valine, tyrosine, arginine, histidine, alanine, aspartic acid, glutamic acid, glycine, proline, serine, and hydroxyproline content.

(2) A prerequisite for label approval for products consisting of or containing “Mechanically Separated (Species)” is that such “Mechanically Separated (Species)” shall have been produced by an establishment under an establishment quality control system. Such a plant quality control system shall provide the controls and information necessary to assure that the product will meet the requirements described in §319.5(a) and to enable establishment personnel and program employees to monitor the system for effectiveness. The system shall include a written description of the methods used by the establishment to maintain uniformity of the raw ingredients used in manufacturing product, to control the handling and processing of the raw ingredients and the finished product, and shall contain provisions for chemical analyses of the product and other procedures to determine and assure compliance with standards for the product. For purposes of this paragraph, a lot shall consist of the “Mechanically Separated (Species)” designated as such by the operator of the establishment or his or her

agent from the product produced from a single species of livestock in no more than one continuous shift of up to 12 hours. All units of any lot must be available for inspection by program employees. Analysis of a sample of at least 1 pound from each lot to verify contents of fat, protein, and calcium in "Mechanically Separated (Species)" shall be performed by the operator of the establishment or his or her agent to assure that finished product will meet the requirements in §319.5(a), except that such analyses with respect to fat, protein, and calcium content shall be required to be performed with respect to only one randomly selected lot of every five lots if the preceding ten analyses and all such analyses performed by the Department during the preceding ten analyses period establish compliance with the requirements of §319.5(a), and that no analyses with respect to fat or protein content shall be required where the finished product is represented as product for processing. An analysis of a sample of at least 1 pound to verify essential amino acid content and/or protein efficiency ratio in "Mechanically Separated (Species)" shall be performed by the operator of the establishment or his or her agent at the rate of at least one per month during production to assure that finished product will meet the requirements of §319.5(a), except that such analyses with respect to essential amino acid content and/or protein efficiency ratio shall be required to be performed only once every 6 months if the preceding three analyses and all such analyses performed by the Department during the preceding three analyses period establish compliance with the requirements of §319.5(a). Finished product samples shall be analyzed in accordance with "Official Methods of Analysis of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists," (AOAC), 15th edition, 1990, §§960.39, 976.21, 928.08 (Chapter 39), and 940.33 (Chapter 45), which is incorporated by reference, or if no AOAC method is available, in accordance with the "Chemistry Laboratory Guidebook," U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, March 1986 edition, sections 6.011-6.013, Revised June 1987 (pages 6-35 through 6-65). The "Official Methods of Analysis

of the Association of Official Analytical Chemists," 15th edition, 1990, is incorporated by reference with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51. Alternative methods of analysis may be submitted to the Administrator to determine their acceptability based upon their accuracy, repeatability, reproducibility, and lowest level of reliable measurement, as demonstrated by at least 3 laboratories. Copies of AOAC's "Official Methods" may be obtained from: AOAC, 2200 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 400, Arlington, VA 22201. Copies of USDA's Chemistry Laboratory Guidebook may be obtained from: Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. This incorporation by reference was approved by the Director of the FEDERAL REGISTER on December 30, 1981 and March 15, 1982. These materials are incorporated as they exist on the date of the approval. A notice of any change in the sections of the AOAC methods or the Chemistry Laboratory Guidebook cited herein will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.) The plant quality control system shall be subject to periodic review, and the approval of such system may be terminated in accordance with §318.4(g)(2) of this subchapter.

[47 FR 28256, June 29, 1982, as amended at 54 FR 40631, Oct. 3, 1989; 59 FR 33642, June 30, 1994; 62 FR 45026, Aug. 25, 1997]

§319.6 Limitations with respect to use of Mechanically Separated (Species).

(a) Meat food products required to be prepared from one species shall not contain Mechanically Separated (Species) of any other species.

(b) Mechanically Separated (Species) described in §319.5 that has a protein content of not less than 14 percent and a fat content of not more than 30 percent may constitute up to 20 percent of the livestock and poultry product portion of any meat food product except those listed in paragraph (d) of this section.

(c) Mechanically Separated (Species) for processing described in §319.5 may constitute up to 20 percent of the livestock and poultry product portion of