

United States Department of Agriculture Marketing and Regulatory Programs Agricultural Marketing Service Livestock and Seed Program Meat Grading & Certification Branch

Instruction 608 August 25, 1995 Page 1 of 1

TEMPERATURE CERTIFICATION FOR CHILLED PRODUCTS

Purpose

This instruction defines procedures for verifying temperature requirements for chilled products.

Procedures

Use a properly calibrated thermometer. (See MGC Instruction 909.)

Chilled products

1. In-process.

Sample sufficient bone-in and boneless product throughout the process to ensure that specification temperature requirements are being met.

2. Final acceptance.

- a. Remove packaging material to expose the product. Do not pierce packaging material with the thermometer.
- b. Test sufficient product to ensure requirements are met.
- c. Allow the thermometer to stabilize before reading the temperature.
- d. A thermometer tolerance of "2EF is permitted.
- e. For rejection criteria, refer to the purchase requirements or applicable specification.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.