



# Georgia Department of Agriculture

Capitol Square • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

Gary W. Black  
Commissioner

**DATE:** MARCH 6, 2014

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to Consider Amendments to the Rules relating to the Georgia Meat Inspection Act

**TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:**

Pursuant to the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, O.C.G.A. §§ 26-2-80 and 26-2-202, notice is hereby given that the Georgia Department of Agriculture will be considering technical amendments to Departmental Rules 40-10-1-.20(7)(b)(4) and 40-10-1-.20(7)(d)(2) relating to food ingredients and sources of radiation listed or approved for use in the production of meat products. Written comments will be accepted from March 6, 2014, to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on April 7, 2014.

**SYNOPSIS, MAIN FEATURES, AND DIFFERENCES:**

The Georgia Department of Agriculture's Meat Inspection Section operates under a cooperative agreement with the Food Safety and Inspection Service (hereinafter "FSIS") of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). As part of the cooperative agreement, the Department must enforce rules and regulations that are at least equal to those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. §§ 601, *et seq.*

In order to maintain consistency with current updates promulgated by FSIS, more specifically an FSIS technical amendment that replaced all references to deleted Title 9 C.F.R. Subpart 318.7, with appropriate references to the correct section, Title 9 CFR Subpart 424.21(c), the Department is proposing to amend Departmental Rule 40-10-1-.20, specifically 40-10-1-.20(7)(b)(4) and 40-10-1-.20(7)(d)(2). These technical amendments will provide the correct reference to Title 9 CFR Subpart 424.21(c) which lists food ingredients and sources of radiation approved for use in the production of meat products. In addition, Departmental Rule 40-10-1-.20(7)(d)(2) is being further amended to remove sodium benzoate, sodium propionate, and benzoic acid from the list of substances that the Rules prohibit for use in meat products.

**COMMENT PERIOD AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Department will be accepting written comments from March 6, 2014, to the close of business (4:30 p.m.) on April 7, 2014. Comments will be considered on April 8, 2014. Please submit written comments to:

Glen Echols, Director  
Meat Inspection Section  
Georgia Department of Agriculture  
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Room 108  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334  
Telephone: (404) 656-3673  
FAX: (404)463-1998

You may download a copy of the synopsis and the proposed rules from the Georgia Department of Agriculture website at [www.agr.georgia.gov](http://www.agr.georgia.gov).

This notice is given in accordance with the Georgia Administrative Procedures Act, O.C.G.A. 50-13-4.