

**National Shellfish Sanitation Program
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Shellfish Safety Team
Division of Cooperative Programs
Office of Compliance**

Manual of Interpretations

Date: December 8, 2002

The Manual of Interpretation Codification System consists of nine subject areas. The nine areas are **Interpretation Number, Date, and National Shellfish Sanitation Program Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish**, reference hereon known as "**Model Ordinance Reference, Key Words, Question, Interpretation Rationale, Other References, and Contact.**"

Interpretation Number: The interpretation number consists of four fields:

- (1) primary
- (2) secondary
- (3) tertiary and
- (4) quaternary.

Each identified field is related to a particular section of the Model Ordinance and a chronological number is assigned for the interpretation. The following is an example:

For example: **Interpretation Number: 05-III-@.02-100**

05 - The primary field corresponds to the last published Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish revision date; in this case it is "2005."

III- The secondary field corresponds to a chapter in the Guide; in this case it is "Chapter III - Laboratory."

@.02- The tertiary field corresponds to the chronological numerical sequence for a subparagraph under a particular section in a chapter.

100 - The quaternary field is a chronological number for each interpretation issued under a particular section. **Note:** All interpretations issued for the first time for each Guide section will start with the number 100.

- Date:** This is the actual date when the interpretation was issued.
- Model Ordinance Reference:** This refers to the particular chapters, paragraphs and subparagraphs in the guide. For example "**Chapter III, Section @.02A**"
- Keywords:** These are words that serve to provide significant or memorable statements for systematic index entry.
- Question:** This is the particular question of concern that needs to be interpreted.

Interpretation: The FDA written response to clarify the particular area of concern in a specific chapter or section of the **NSSP Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish**.

Rationale: This explains the reason for the interpretation. This area will cover existing policy, regulations, laws, and public health reasons.

Other References: This includes other documents used to issue the interpretation such as laws, regulations, model codes, scientific literature, etc.

Contact: This is the office responsible for issuing the interpretation. Any questions or comments should be in writing and addressed to:

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