National Shellfish Sanitation Program

Guide for the Control of Molluscan Shellfish

2007

Scetion II. Model Ordinance
Chapter XVI. Post Harvest Processing

Guide Contents

Post-Harvest Processing

A. If a dealer elects to use a process to reduce the level(s) of one target pathogen or some target pathogens, or all pathogens of public health concern in shellfish, the dealer shall:

(1) Have a HACCP plan approved by the Authority for the process that ensures that the target pathogen(s) are at safe levels for the at risk population in product that has been subjected to the process.

(a) The dealer must demonstrate that the process reduces the level of *Vibrio vulnificus* in the processed product to non-detectable (<30 MPN/gram) and the process achieves a minimum 3.52 log reduction, to be determined by use of the *Vibrio vulnificus* FDA approved EIA procedure of Tamplin, et al, as described in Chapter 9 of the FDA *Bacteriological Analytical Manual*, 7th Edition, 1992, or other method approved for NSSP use.

(b) The dealer must demonstrate that the process reduces the level of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in the processed product to non-detectable (<30 MPN/gram) and the process achieves a minimum 3.52 log reduction.

(c) For processes that target other pathogens the dealer must demonstrate that the level of those pathogens in processed product has been reduced to levels below the appropriate FDA action level, or, in the absence of such a level, below the appropriate level as determined by the ISSC.

(d) The ability of the process to reliably achieve the appropriate reduction in the target pathogen(s) shall be validated by a study as outlined in Guidance Documents Chapter IV Naturally Occurring Pathogens, Section .04 approved by the Authority, with the concurrence of FDA.

(e) The HACCP plan shall include:

(i) Process controls to ensure that the end point criteria are met for every lot; and,

(ii) A sampling program to periodically verify that the end point criteria are met.

(2) Package and label all shellfish in accordance with all requirements of this Ordinance. This includes labeling all shellfish which have been subjected to the process but which are not frozen in accordance with applicable shellfish tagging and labeling requirements in Chapter X.05 and X.06.

(3) Keep records in accordance with Chapter X.07.

B. A dealer who meets the requirements of this section may label product that has been subjected to the reduction process as:

(1) "Processed for added safety", if the process reduces the levels of all pathogens of public health concern to safe levels for the at risk population;

(2) "Processed to reduce [name of target pathogen(s)] to non-detectable levels," if the process reduces one or more, but not all, pathogens of public health concern to safe levels for the at risk population, and if that level is non-detectable; or

(3) "Processed to reduce [name of target pathogen(s)] to non-detectable levels for added safety," if the process reduces one or more, but not all, pathogens of public health concern to safe levels for the at risk population, and if that level is non-detectable; or

(4) A term that describes the type of process applied (e.g. "pasteurized," "individually quick frozen," "pressure treated") may be substituted for the word "processed" in the options contained in (B) (1)-(3).

C. For the purposes of refrigeration, if the product is dead, the product shall be treated as shucked product. If the product is live, the product shall be treated as shellstock.