

Georgia Department of Agriculture

19 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW • Atlanta, Georgia 30334-4201

Gary W. Black Commissioner

Dear Georgia Food Manufacturer:

As the Georgia Department of Agriculture strives toward an integrated food safety system, the importance and input of the food industry included in this partnership is imperative. Ultimately, we share the common goal of providing a service to the consumer – safe food.

In an effort to effectively reach this goal, the need for educational outreach grows more important. The ability to extend information we receive through education is critical to ensure all of our Georgia processors are in compliance with the Georgia Department of Agriculture's Rules and U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR).

Through this educational process, it has become evident that we address a critical issue with our low acid and acidified food processors. These types of operations fall under specific regulations, LACF & Acidified Regulations 21 CFR 108, 113 & 114, requiring a classification and process approval of each product. We are using this opportunity to inform and remind facilities that manufacture these products that they are required to have each product classified and the process approved by a Processing Authority. The products that are classified as an Acidified Food or Low Acid food are also required to register (form FDA 2541) and file a Schedule Process (form FDA 2541a or for low acid aseptic use form FDA 2541c)) with FDA. FDA requires a separate process filing form for each acidified and low-acid canned food, each form or style, and each container style or size. A firm must re-file a schedule process if any changes are made to the process or if the firm relocates. For more information please visit the following FDA website regarding registration & process filing:

 $\underline{http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FoodFacilityRegistration/AcidifiedLACFRegistration/default.htm}$

If you have any questions or problems regarding this procedure, please feel free to contact Krissa Jones at 404-657-4801 or by e-mail at Krissa.Jones@agr.georgia.gov.

We look forward to working together through this public / private partnership towards food safety.

Sincerely,

Georgia Department of Agriculture Food Safety Division