

**“USDA-Acceptable”**

To: Whom It May Concern,

*The “USDA-Acceptable” terminology widely used by industry and ITW over the years refers back to USDA’s former review process for nonfood compounds intended for incidental food contact applications in meat and poultry establishments. That review program ceased on August 21, 1995. Since that date, USDA has instead required meat and poultry establishments to demonstrate the safety of such compounds in compliance with 9 C.F.R. 416.4(c) which places the burden on meat and poultry establishments to use chemicals and compounds safely and effectively. To comply with this requirement, we understand that meat and poultry establishments turn to their manufacturers and suppliers, like us at ITW, to confirm that any incidental food contact materials sourced are safe and effective, consistent with the parameters of USDA’s Incidental Food Contact Materials Guidance. While it is common industry practice to refer to compounds that comply with the Guidance as “USDA Acceptable,” ITW plans to update its product materials in the coming months to state that the product is suitable for its intended use from a safety standpoint, consistent with applicable USDA requirements.*

