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ACS Publishes Official Comments on FDA/Health Canada Risk Assessment on Listeriosis from Soft-Ripened Cheese Consumption in U.S. and Canada

Denver, CO (April 22, 2013) — The American Cheese Society (ACS) posted its [official comments](#) to the United States Government's Federal Register in response to *Joint FDA/Health Canada Quantitative Assessment of the Risk of Listeriosis from Soft-Ripened Cheese Consumption in the United States and Canada: Draft Report*. The comments were developed by the ACS Board of Directors in conjunction with the ACS Regulatory & Academic Committee, after a thorough review of the draft report's findings.

In its comments, ACS acknowledged the difficult task undertaken by FDA and Health Canada in attempting to quantify the risk of listeriosis given the limited information available on the prevalence or sources of cheese contamination. ACS offered a number of recommendations for the development of the final report, centering on concerns with the analytical choices made by the report's authors, as well as with the presentation of conclusions. ACS also requested that additional, real-world industry research be incorporated into the final report. [Download ACS's official comments.](#)

ACS has asked that FDA inform industry stakeholders of how its final report may ultimately impact policy and regulation, and to keep in mind that regulatory changes may inordinately impact small producers – jeopardizing the very types of producers who are growing the economy through job creation and fueling consumer desire for artisan, farmstead, and specialty cheeses. Updates on the risk assessment will be shared with ACS members via emailed Member Alerts and the monthly CheeseBytes member newsletter.

Industry members are strongly encouraged to submit their own responses to the draft risk assessment before the public comment period closes on April 29. To submit comments to the Federal Register, visit <https://www.federalregister.gov> and search for docket # FDA-2012-N-1182.

To learn more about ACS's official comments, contact Rebecca Sherman Orozco at 720-328-2788.

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About the American Cheese Society (ACS)

ACS is the leading organization supporting the understanding, appreciation, and promotion of artisan, farmstead, and specialty cheeses produced in the Americas. At 1,500 members strong, ACS provides advocacy, education, business development, and networking opportunities for cheesemakers, retailers, enthusiasts, and extended industry. ACS strives to continually raise the quality and availability of cheese in the Americas. Since its founding in 1983, ACS proudly hosts the foremost annual educational conference and world-renowned cheese judging and competition. The 2013 ACS Conference & Competition will be held in Madison, Wisconsin from July 31-August 3, 2013. Visit www.cheesesociety.org for more information.