possess appropriate qualifications to understand and contribute to the Committee's work.

Industry Representatives

Regarding nominations for members representing industry interests, a letter will be sent to each person or organization that has made a nomination and to other organizations that have expressed an interest in participating in the selection process together with a complete list of all such organizations and the nominees. The letter will state that it is the responsibility of each nominator or organization that has expressed an interest in participating in the selection process to consult with the others to provide a consensus slate of possible members representing industry interests within 60 days. In the event that a slate of nominees has not been provided within 60 days, the agency will select an industry representative for each such vacancy from the entire list of industry nominees to avoid delay or disruption of the work of the Committee. The agency is particularly interested in nominees that possess the essential scientific credentials needed to participate fully and knowledgeably in the Committee's deliberations. In addition to this expertise, the agency believes that it would be an advantage to the Committee's work if the individual(s) had special insight and direct experience into specific industry-wide issues, practices, and concerns that might not otherwise be available to others not similarly situated.

This notice is issued under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2) and 21 CFR part 14, relating to advisory committees.

Dated: February 11, 1999.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 99–4214 Filed 2–19–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99N–0191]

Food Code; 1999 Revision; Availability

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration is announcing the availability of the 1999 revision of the Food Code. This 1999 revision was initiated in cooperation with the Conference for Food Protection (CFP) to help assure that safe, unadulterated, and honestly presented food is sold or offered for human consumption by retail food establishments.

ADDRESSES: The 1999 revision of the Food Code is available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch (HFA–305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Regarding questions about this document: Betty Harden, Office of Field Programs, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition (HFS–627), 200 C St. SW., Washington, DC 20204, 202–205–8140.

Regarding additional information about the CFP: Leon Townsend, Conference for Food Protection, 110 Tecumseh Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601, 502–695–0253.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: FDA provides assistance to local, State, and Federal governmental bodies to ensure that the food that is provided to consumers by retail food establishments is not a vector of communicable diseases. One mechanism for providing that assistance is the publication of a model code that sets out FDA's best advice for a uniform system of regulation to ensure that the food sold or offered for human consumption at retail is safe, properly protected, and accurately presented.

The CFP was originally established in 1971 by State and Federal officials and by representatives of industry. In 1988, the CFP adopted a constitution and bylaws to provide a formal structure under which State regulatory authorities could meet and consider guidelines for improving food safety in the retail segment of the food industry.

At the 1986 CFP meeting, FDA presented a White Paper that recommended combining the three distinct model codes that existed at that time (retail food stores, food service facilities, and vending) into a Food Protection Unicode. The CFP endorsed the approach that FDA would develop a model Food Protection Unicode as a priority project. FDA formed a Unicode Task Group and published a notice of the Unicode's availability for comment in the **Federal Register** of May 9, 1988 (53 FR 16472), when the Task Group completed a draft. Based on comments submitted in response to that notice, and in consideration of subsequent comments provided by regulatory officials, industry representatives, academia, and consumer representatives at the CFP meetings in 1988, 1990, and 1992, FDA modified the document and finalized it as the 1993 Food Code. Based on field application trials, further comment, and input from the 1994 CFP meeting, FDA issued a revised version of the 1993 Food Code as the 1995 Food Code. Another revision, the 1997 Food Code, included recommendations made at the 1996 CFP meeting.

The CFP wrote a letter to FDA on June 11, 1998, and suggested changes in the 1997 Food Code. As in the past, these recommended changes were cooperatively developed by regulatory, industry, academic, and consumer representatives within the purview of the constitution and bylaws of the CFP during its 1998 meeting.

The 1999 Food Code responds to those suggestions. Note, however, that FDA's response in the Food Code to the CFP recommendations differs in one respect from the agency's August 14, 1998, letter to the CFP. That is, cook-chill and sous vide operations are not exempted from the definition of reduced oxygen packaged food or from the attendant Code requirements, when *Clostridium botulinum* is a hazard in the final packaged form.

Significant changes from the 1997 Food Code include the following:

(1) An insert page is provided to alert the Food Code reader to the options (and further discussion in Annex 3 about the requirement and the options) available to food establishments in advising especially vulnerable consumers of the increased possibility of foodborne illness when animal-derived foods are eaten raw or undercooked.

(2) Clarification of the Code provision that prohibits bare-hand contact with ready-to-eat food is provided in Annex 3 and an insert page provides a synopsis of the clarification; a prohibition against the use of artificial fingernails and nail polish by food employees is added; and the display of handwashing signs at handwashing facilities and the use of automated handwashing facilities are addressed.

(3) For establishments serving highly susceptible populations, enhanced food safety protections are added with respect to raw shell eggs, juices, and raw seed sprouts.

(4) The definition and Code provisions related to reduced oxygen packaging are modified to more clearly address *C. botulinum* as a microbiological hazard in certain packaging processes, barriers against the growth of *C. botulinum*, and types of reduced oxygen packaging.

(5) New defined terms include accredited program, juice, variance, and whole-muscle, intact beef steak; other

definitions were modified including foodborne illness, potentially hazardous food (with respect to garlic in oil), reduced oxygen packaging, and support animal which is now service animal.

(6) Certain food employee-related provisions are modified, such as eliminating the requirement that food employees report travel out of the country, allowances for nurse practitioners and physician assistants to provide medical documentation, and addition of certain duties of the person in charge to reflect a 1996 CFP recommendation that was overlooked in the 1997 Code.

(7) Time and temperature controls are modified specifically for the cooking temperature for hamburger at less than 1 second and for cooking pork, and labeling criteria are added relative to whole-muscle, intact beef steaks which may be cooked rare without a consumer advisory and relative to safe handling instructions for retail operations that package meat and poultry.

(8) Clarification is provided for cleaning and sanitizing utensils and equipment used in food preparation and for refilling consumer containers, used by consumers to dispense condiments, and used in refrigerated preparation areas.

(9) Date marking of ready-to-eat food is augmented to limit the amount of time new food can be added to a container of existing food.

(10) More user aids are provided, such as additional references in Annex 2 and a diagram of the date marking criteria in Annex 7.

(11) Provisions are updated to reflect consistency with the current *Code of Federal Regulations* and other Federal agencies' guidance.

The 1999 revision of the Food Code is available for public examination in the Dockets Management Branch (address above) between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Copies of the 1999 Food Code are available on the World Wide Web at ''http://vm.cfsan.fda.gov/list.html or at http://www.fedworld.com''. The 1999 Food Code also may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161, in several formats: Docutek copy, spiral bound, WordPerfect 6.1 files on diskette, and enhanced electronic version on diskette or on CD-ROM including Adobe Reader. The enhanced versions include electronic features such as hypertext links that enable the reader to quickly access the text of cross-referenced Code provisions or other documents. Other documents include Federal laws and regulations and, in the CD-ROM version, reference manuals to assist with plan review and HACCP implementation.

Dated: February 10, 1999.

William K. Hubbard,

Associate Commissioner for Policy Coordination.

[FR Doc. 99–4315 Filed 2–19–99; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4160–01–F

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

Blood Products Advisory Committee; Notice of Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice.

This notice announces a forthcoming meeting of a public advisory committee of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The meeting will be open to the public.

Name of Committee: Blood Products Advisory Committee.

General Function of the Committee: To provide advice and recommendations to the agency on FDA's regulatory issues.

Date and Time: The meeting will be held on March 25, 1999, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and March 26, 1999, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Location: Ramada Inn, Embassy Ballroom, 8400 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda, MD.

Contact Person: Linda A. Smallwood, Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research (HFM–350), Food and Drug Administration, 1401 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD 20852–1448, 301–827–3514, or FDA Advisory Committee Information Line, 1–800–741–8138 (301–443–0572 in the Washington, DC area), code 19516. Please call the Information Line for up-to-date information on this meeting.

Agenda: On March 25, 1999, in the morning, the committee will hear, discuss, and provide comments on an informational presentation on Nucleic Acid Testing of Whole Blood. In the afternoon, the committee will discuss and provide comments on Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) p24 Antigen Testing and Validation of Donor History Questions. On March 26, 1999, the committee will discuss and provide comment on an informational presentation on Clinical Trial Endpoints for Immune Globulin Intravenous and will discuss and provide recommendations on algorithms to address Inadvertent Contamination (with HIV, HBsAg, and/or HCV) of Plasma Pools for Fractionation.

Procedure: Interested persons may present data, information, or views, orally or in writing, on issues pending before the committee. Written submissions may be made to the contact person by March 15, 1999. Oral presentations from the public will be scheduled between approximately 10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m.; and 4:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. on March 25, 1999, and between 8:45 a.m. and 9:15 a.m., and 11:30 a.m. and 12 m. on March 26, 1999. Time allotted for each presentation may be limited. Those desiring to make formal oral presentations should notify the contact person before March 15, 1999, and submit a brief statement of the general nature of the evidence or arguments they wish to present, the names and addresses of proposed participants, and an indication of the approximate time requested to make their presentation.

Notice of this meeting is given under the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app. 2).

Dated: February 11, 1999.

Michael A. Friedman,

Deputy Commissioner for Operations.

[FR Doc. 99–4215 Filed 2–19–99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Food and Drug Administration

[Docket No. 99N–0235]

Premarket Notification for Food Contact Substances; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Food and Drug Administration, HHS.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is announcing the following public meeting: ''FDA Implementation of the Notification Process for Food Contact Substances.'' FDA is seeking comments from industry, consumer groups, and other members of the public prior to formally announcing the availability of guidance documents for the notification program. FDA will consider the comments received as a result of this meeting as the agency develops its plan for implementing the notification process for food contact substances, as well as the guidance documents for the notification program, which will be made available for public comment, at a later date.

DATES: The meeting will be held on Friday, March 12, 1999, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Submit written comments by March 22, 1999.