



November 6, 2020

Varun Varada
3220 Denali Drive
Irving, Texas 75063

Re: Docket No. FDA-2020-P-1390

Dear Varun Varada:

This letter is in response to your citizen petition (FDA-2020-P-1390) received on May 14, 2020, in which you requested the Commissioner to amend all parts of 21 the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), which mention and stipulate to use the "calorie" as the unit of food energy to use the official SI unit of energy, the joule (specifically, the kilojoule for food energy). Consequently, you requested that the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels be redesigned to have the "Calories" field changed to "Energy" with the measurement written as "<n> kJ", where "<n>" is the number of kilojoules contained in the food or supplement item. And for cases of backwards compatibility, you requested that the food energy mentioned on the Nutrition Facts and Supplement Facts labels could be allowed to optionally include "calories" written below the kilojoules measurement as "<n> kcal", where "<n>" is the number of "calories" contained in the food item.

In accordance with Title 21 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 21 CFR 10.30(e)(2), this letter is to advise you that we have not been able to reach a decision on your petition within the first 180 days of its receipt because of other agency priorities and the limited availability of resources. When we complete our review of your petition, we will notify you of our decision.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Claudine Kavanaugh, PhD, MPH, RD
Director
Office of Nutrition
and Food Labeling
Center for Food Safety
and Applied Nutrition