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**U.S. SETTLES FEDERAL MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION SUIT  
AGAINST BLUE STAR MEAT CORPORATION,  
ITS PRESIDENT, AND MANAGER**

MICHAEL J. GARCIA, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that the U.S. Government has settled civil charges against BLUE STAR MEAT CORPORATION, and the firm's owner, BOK YON CHEON, and manager, SUNG HO HONG (collectively "BLUE STAR"). BLUE STAR allegedly violated the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (PPIA) by preparing, packaging, and attempting to sell meat and poultry products without the food first passing federal inspection. The settlement was approved today by United States District Judge WILLIAM H. PAULEY III.

The FMIA and the PPIA require that all meat and poultry food products prepared for commercial use must be inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and marked with a stamp of federal inspection. It is illegal under the FMIA and the PPIA to label meat or poultry food products in a false or misleading manner with respect to whether the food has passed federal inspection.

According to the Government's allegations, BLUE STAR, which operates as a distributor of meat and poultry products in the Bronx, violated one or more provisions of the FMIA and the PPIA on five separate occasions during the period of January 2002 through May 2006. The alleged illegal conduct included preparing meat and poultry food products without the required federal inspection, placing illegally prepared and processed meat and poultry products into boxes falsely bearing the marks of federal inspection, attempting to sell misbranded and illegally prepared meat and poultry food products, and reusing boxes containing the federal mark of approval. Specifically, according to a civil complaint filed by the Government, HONG admitted in writing that USDA investigators had observed at Blue Star sliced pork ribs, sliced beef short ribs, cut pork rib bellies, and chicken wings that were

"cut, prepared and packaged without the benefit of Federal Meat and Poultry Inspection."

Under the consent decree entered into by the parties, BLUE STAR is permanently enjoined from selling, transporting, offering for sale or transport, or receiving in commerce any meat or poultry food product that has not passed required federal inspection. The settlement agreement provides that BLUE STAR will give the USDA full access to its business to review its compliance with the FMIA and the PPIA. In the event that the Government discovers future violations of these federal laws, the consent decree provides that BLUE STAR shall pay to the Government a penalty of one thousand dollars per violation, provided, however, that the Government may request that the Court assess a higher penalty if the circumstances so warrant.

Mr. GARCIA stated: "The health and welfare of consumers must be protected by assuring that commercially distributed food products have passed federal inspection. We are committed to enforcing the food safety laws in order to safeguard public health."

Mr. GARCIA praised the assistance of the United States Department of Agriculture-Food Safety and Inspection Service in investigating the case.

Assistant United States Attorney JOHN P. CRONAN is in charge of the case.

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