

August 13, 1969

**OPINION LETTER NO. 285**  
Answered by L. J. Gardner

Honorable Harold J. Esser  
State Representative - District 18  
3 W. Glen Arbor Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64114

Dear Mr. Esser:

This is in reply to your question whether a meat retailer who purchases federally inspected meats which he cuts up and sells to his customers is subject to the provisions of the Meat Inspection Law because frozen food lockers are located on the premises.

The law with respect to the regulation of locker plants is set forth in Sections 196.450 to 196.515, RSMo. This law requires the operator of a locker plant to secure a license from the Department of Agriculture and it requires the department to inspect all locker plants licensed under Section 196.450 to 196.515 at least once each six months and may make such additional inspections as the department deems necessary.

The Meat Inspection Law is set forth in Sections 265.300 to 265.470, RSMo Supp. 1967. Section 265.320 provides:

"The commissioner shall exempt from the provisions of sections 265.300 to 265.470:

\* \* \* \* \*

"(c) Retail dealers, with respect to meat and poultry which has been inspected federally or by other approved inspection, sold directly to consumers in individual retail stores, if the processing by the dealer is limited to the cutting up of meat or poultry on his premises to supply his own customers;"

Honorable Harold J. Esser -

If the retailer to whom you refer meets the qualifications of this section, he is in a position to ask the Commissioner of Agriculture to exempt him from the provisions of the Meat Inspection Law. As a preliminary step in that direction you may wish to suggest that he contact Dr. Harold B. Wright, Supervising Veterinarian, 814 Sunset, Liberty, Missouri. Dr. Wright's telephone number is 816-TH7-4293.

Yours very truly,

JOHN C. DANFORTH  
Attorney General