Effective July 1, 2002, inspection agencies must receive IBC authorization before releasing labels.

This new step is being implemented to streamline the process and to correct a flaw in the system. Currently, inspection agencies do not have to verify that proper payment has been received by the IBC before issuing labels. Consequently, manufacturers have received and used labels even though the payment was lost, delayed, or was for the wrong amount.

Additionally, IBC is in the process of developing a program to accept label orders and payments over the Internet. This step will streamline the process by eliminating the need for manufacturers to notify both their inspection agency and IBC when requesting and paying for labels.

The testing of the new notification procedure will begin on June 1. IBC will notify inspection agencies via e-mail when proper payment has been received. During the test period, inspection agencies can continue to release labels in accordance with their current procedures.