The contest box (e.g., flag, team number or name on an object, etc.), is found AFTER the Appearance scores have been recorded, the following guidelines are to be used:

- If the object is attached to a sample that is removed, only the judge receiving that sample scores the penalty for the foreign object. This rule applies to all boxes, regardless of whether or not a contest box (e.g., flag, team number or name on an object, etc.) is found.

f. Any team that is found to violate the rule prohibiting the addition of foreign material, and/or stuffing are prohibited in the container. A hair or brush bristle is not considered a foreign item.

- A team that has been disqualified for any reason, such as no bone in ribs, etc., will be judged and will receive a one in all categories. Each contestant must submit at least six portions of meat in an approved container. Chicken, pork, and brisket meat for the category being judged and legal garnish may be in the turn-in box.

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- The following cleanliness and safety rules will apply:
  - All use of tobacco products while handling meat.
  - Cleaning and sanitizing of food contact surfaces is required. Includes all food contact surfaces, work areas, utensils, equipment, cooking devices, equipment (including generators) shall not exceed the boundaries of the team’s assigned cooking space. All seasoning and cooking of product shall be done within the assigned cooking space. Teams shall not share an assigned cooking space or equipment (including generators). A fire extinguisher shall be near all cooking devices.

- The container shall not be marked in any way to make the container unique or identifiable. The acceptable

- Sanitizing of work area should be implemented with the use of a bleach/water rinse (one cap/gallon of water). The container must be sanitized after the sample is removed, and the container is returned to the contestant. The cleaning and sanitizing of the container shall be done by the contestant, and the samples must be kept clean and sanitized.

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