
FSIS DIRECTIVE

6160.1

3/10/00

INSPECTION PROCEDURE FOR LAMBS

I. PURPOSE

This directive provides a new procedure for inspecting lamb to FSIS inspection personnel.

II. [RESERVED]

III. [RESERVED]

IV. REFERENCES

9 CFR 310.18(a)

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V. DEFINITIONS

Lamb - a young sheep that meets the criteria for an ovine carcass, if there is proof that the ovine was less than 14 months of age OR there is the presence of a break joint (epiphysis) of the distal metacarpal bone of either foreleg.

VI. BACKGROUND

A. FSIS is changing its inspection procedure for lambs. Currently, inspectors extensively palpate the carcasses of lambs in order to detect and remove carcasses with caseous lymphadenitis. Under the new procedure, inspectors will selectively palpate the carcasses of lambs, which will reduce the risk that extensive carcass palpation will spread or add microbial contamination to carcasses.

B. The amount and quality of lighting currently available when palpating lamb carcasses may not be adequate for the new procedure. Questions concerning the adequacy of the lighting should be referred to the IIC for further evaluation.

**DISTRIBUTION: Inspection Offices; T/A
Inspectors; Plant Mgt; T/A Plant Mgt; TRA;
ABB; PRD; Import Offices**

OPI: OPPDE

C. The new procedure provided in this directive pertains to lamb carcasses **only**. This procedure change does not apply to mature ovines (yearlings and mature sheep) or caprines. Also, it does not apply to the viscera inspection of lambs. Continue to use current inspection procedures with mature ovines and caprines.

VII. LAMB INSPECTION PROCEDURES

A. When performing viscera inspection on a lamb, inspection personnel should:

1. Observe abdominal viscera, esophagus, mesenteric lymph nodes, and omental fat.
2. Observe bile duct and content, and express gall bladder.
3. Observe and palpate liver (both sides) and costal surfaces of lungs.
4. Palpate bronchial and mediastinal lymph nodes.
5. Observe ventral surfaces of lungs.
6. Observe and palpate the heart.
7. Examine the pancreatic gland for wholesomeness **if** the gland is saved for edible purposes. Tapeworms in the bile duct indicate possible infested pancreatic gland.

B. When performing carcass-head inspection on a lamb, inspection personnel should:

1. Observe outer surfaces of carcass.
2. Observe pelvic, abdominal and thoracic body cavities.
3. Observe spleen and kidneys.
4. Observe neck, shoulders and head.

Selective palpation of observed abnormalities may be performed. Abnormalities that require incisions to be made by inspection personnel during carcass-head inspection should be railed out for veterinary inspection.

C. Abnormalities. All abnormalities requiring veterinary disposition should be railed out.

Philip S. Derfler /s/

Deputy Administrator
Office of Policy, Program Development
and Evaluation