

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE	52-09	8/5/09
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**ANTE-MORTEM VERIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK OFFERED FOR SLAUGHTER BY
THE ESTABLISHMENT**

DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS NOTICE UNTIL AUGUST 16, 2009.

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides inspection program personnel (IPP) with instructions on how to verify and reconcile the number of animals presented for ante-mortem inspection with the number of animals passed for slaughter and then slaughtered.

II. GENERAL

Establishments are required to present livestock for ante-mortem inspection on the day of slaughter (9 CFR 307.2(a), 9 CFR 309.1(a)). The establishment identifies those animals that need ante-mortem inspection to IPP (e.g. PHV, CSI, FI). However, there is not a uniform method of presenting these animals to IPP. The establishment needs to do so in a manner that will allow IPP to conduct and document that ante-mortem inspection has been performed (e.g., through use of a pen card or drive sheet). This documentation is necessary to facilitate IPP's verification of the number of animals presented for ante-mortem inspection and to reconcile that number with the number of animals slaughtered.

IPP are to request a document (e.g., a pen card or drive sheet) from the establishment that provides sufficient space for IPP to record the following:

1. the date ante-mortem inspection was performed,
2. the pen/lot number,
3. the number and slaughter class of livestock in the pen/lot that were offered and passed ante-mortem inspection,
4. the time ante-mortem inspection was performed, and
5. the IPP's signature or initials.

DISTRIBUTION: Electronic

NOTICE EXPIRES: 8/1/10

OPI: OPPD

If IPP do not receive this document, then the animals are not sufficiently offered for slaughter (9 CFR 309.1(b)). Accordingly, they cannot effectively perform ante-mortem inspection and thus are not able to pass the animals for slaughter. IPP are to advise the establishment that the IPP are unable to conduct ante-mortem inspection because the establishment has not provided an appropriate document.

NOTE: All IPP who conduct AM inspection should have successfully passed the February 2009 humane handling training module.

III. IPP PROCEDURES FOR VERIFICATION OF THE NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OFFERED FOR ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

A. IPP are to periodically verify the accuracy of the number of livestock presented for ante-mortem inspection recorded by the establishment on the pen card or other document.

1. The frequency that this verification is to be performed is to be determined through discussions by the IIC with the Frontline Supervisor (FLS). It is to be based on the establishment's history of accurately recording the number of livestock on the document (e.g., pen card, drive sheet) that is presented to IPP.

2. Verification is performed after the establishment has identified and presented livestock for ante-mortem inspection with a pen card or other document.

3. If the count reveals that the number provided by the establishment is accurate, then IPP are to complete ante-mortem inspection.

4. If the number of livestock provided by the establishment is inaccurate, then IPP are to:

a. ask establishment personnel to present a pen card with the correct number or cross-out the incorrect number and write in the correct number;

b. initial the changes on the pen card that were made by the establishment; and

c. complete ante-mortem inspection.

5. If the establishment personnel refuse to make the correction, IPP are to discontinue ante-mortem inspection. IPP are to:

a. retain the livestock by taking a regulatory control action according to 9 CFR 500.2 (a) (3);

b. issue an NR to the establishment describing that the establishment refused to provide accurate information for the efficient conduct of ante-mortem inspection and enter the correct number of livestock in the NR; and

c. use PBIS code 06D02 and cite 9 CFR 307.2 in the NR.

IV. IPP PROCEDURES FOR PERFORMING ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

A. IPP are to perform ante-mortem inspection, account for animals that pass ante-mortem inspection, and follow the instructions for identifying, controlling and accounting for livestock that do not pass ante-mortem inspection, as described in FSIS Directive 6100.1 – “Ante-Mortem Livestock Inspection.”

1. IPP are to inspect and pass those livestock found to be healthy on ante-mortem inspection.

2. IPP are to request that establishment personnel segregate livestock that need further examination by the PHV from livestock that have passed ante-mortem inspection.

NOTE: Animals are to be segregated in a humane manner.

3. IPP (the PHV or under PHV supervision) are to condemn livestock found dead in the pen and tag them as US Condemned. These livestock are accounted for by using the “Identification Tag Ante-Mortem” form (FSIS Form 6150-1).

3. IPP are to account for the number of livestock in the pens. If livestock are removed from the pen (e.g. deads, livestock segregated for PHV examination), then IPP are to:

a. request that establishment personnel correct the number of livestock written on the pen card by crossing out the number presented and entering the new total, and

b. initial the change.

B. After ante-mortem inspection is completed, IPP are to record on the pen card or other document provided by the establishment, the time that ante-mortem inspection was performed and are to sign or initial the document. Once this is done, ante-mortem inspection is complete, and the livestock may be driven to slaughter.

C. For livestock segregated for examination by a PHV:

1. PHVs are to examine the livestock and make one of the following dispositions for these segregated livestock:

a. passed for normal slaughter,

b. passed for slaughter but tagged, or handled, as a U.S. Suspect animal (9 CFR 309.18), or

c. condemned and tagged as a U.S. Condemned animal.

2. PHVs are to account for the segregated livestock by using:
 - a. a pen card (or other documentation) for those animals passed for normal slaughter; or
 - b. FSIS Form 6150-1, "Identification Tag Ante-Mortem" form, for those animals that are U.S. Suspected or U.S. Condemned.

V. IPP VERIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING THAT LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AT AN ESTABLISHMENT HAVE RECEIVED ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

A. IPP are to verify that only livestock that have passed ante-mortem inspection are moved to slaughter. The IIC, in consultation with the FLS, is to determine at what frequency IPP will need to perform these duties.

1. Periodically throughout the slaughter day, but no less than once per shift, IPP are to verify that livestock being driven to slaughter have received ante-mortem inspection.

2. IPP are to perform this verification by observing livestock handlers driving livestock from the holding pens to the slaughter area and then verify that:

- a. the establishment's documentation (e.g., pen card or other document) is matched to the animals being driven to slaughter; and

- b. the documentation has an IPP signature or initial and time that indicates ante-mortem was performed.

NOTE: IPP can conduct this activity as part of the Humane Activities Tracking System (HATS) verification. However, verification of animal handling, over time, is not to be limited to the post ante-mortem inspection location.

B. IPP are to verify that the number of livestock slaughtered (during a slaughter shift) is no more than the number of livestock that have passed ante-mortem inspection. The postmortem location for this verification procedure is to be determined by the IIC at the establishment. It will vary from establishment to establishment. IPP are to perform this verification by:

1. Periodically throughout a slaughter shift, at postmortem inspection for a particular lot, tally the number of livestock receiving ante-mortem inspection using the establishment's documentation (e.g., pen card or other document); and

2. Comparing this number with the establishment's total for the number of livestock slaughtered in that lot. The establishment's running total for livestock slaughtered may be recorded by the establishment, for example, on drive sheets (or drive cards) or using automatic counters. (The method will vary between establishments.)

C. IPP are responsible for reconciling, on a random basis, the number of animals

receiving ante-mortem inspection with the number of animals slaughtered during a shift. This verification is to be performed at least weekly for each shift.

1. IPP are to reconcile during their normal tour of duty, the total number of animals that received ante-mortem inspection with the total number of animals slaughtered for a shift. IPP are to reconcile these numbers by:

a. determining the number of livestock that were eligible for slaughter by examining and totaling the number of livestock on verified documentation (e.g., pen cards and other documents) and the completed Identification Tag Ante-Mortem forms (FSIS Form 6150-1) for that shift;

b. comparing this number to the establishment's total number of head slaughtered; and

c. determining whether there are discrepancies.

2. If IPP find that there is a discrepancy, then IPP are to discuss with establishment management why the numbers do not agree and determine how to reconcile these figures. IPP are to inquire whether any documentation maintained by the establishment will assist in determining the correct numbers.

3. If FSIS personnel determine that livestock were slaughtered without ante-mortem inspection, then IPP are to follow the instructions in FSIS Directive 6100.1 for livestock not receiving ante-mortem inspection.

4. If there is reason to suspect that animals have been slaughtered without receiving ante-mortem inspection, IPP are to retain the associated carcasses and parts in accordance with 9 CFR 500.2 (a) (3), and contact the district office immediately to discuss any further actions they are to take.

VI. RECORDKEEPING REQUIREMENTS FOR ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

The original, or a copy, of the documentation used by the establishment (e.g., pen card or other document) in presenting the animals for ante-mortem inspection is to be collected by IPP on a daily basis. IPP are to keep the ante-mortem information in the FSIS inspection office for one week following the end of the respective slaughter week.

Refer questions regarding this notice to the Policy Development Division through askFSIS at: <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development