



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

November 25, 2020

Digitally signed copy hand delivered

Office of Field
Operations
Des Moines District
Office

(b) (6)
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Franklin, WI 53132

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Des Moines, IA
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Voice 515.727.8960
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NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

(b) (6)

On November 23, 2020, you were notified verbally and then in writing, via the Notice of Suspension (NOS), that the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) was immediately suspending the assignment of FSIS inspection program personnel (IPP), for slaughter operations, at Strauss Brother LLC., Est. M2444 herein referred to as your/the establishment. This action was taken in accordance with the Rules of Practice, 9 CFR 500.3(b), which indicates that FSIS may take a withholding action or impose a suspension without providing an establishment prior notification if it is handling or slaughtering animals inhumanely such as occurred at your establishment on November 23, 2020.

On November 23, 2020, you provided FSIS written corrective action and preventive measures in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the NOS. The response outlined actions adequate to address the noncompliance regarding humane handling of livestock requirements, including a plan to maintain compliance with the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) Title 21 of the United States Code (21 U.S.C. 603), the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978 (HMSA) (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), and federal regulations {Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) Part 313.30}.

The emails included the following documents, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed:

- Response Letter (2 pages)
- Training: Assessing Insensibility of Stunned Animals (8 pages)
- Training Record: Knife Sharpening Training for Noncompliance (1 page)
- Training Record: Assessment of Insensibility for Stunned and Euthanized Animals (1 page)
- Number Knives for Halal Lamb (1 page)
- Instructions: Stunning (2 pages)
- Record: Air Pressure Log (1 page)
- Record: Animal Unloading Log (1 page)

- Record: Barn Checklist (1 page)
- Record: Stunner Testing Log (1 page)
- Record: Daily Humane Handling Audit Log (1 page)
- Record: Euthanasia Log (1 page)
- Record: Stun Gun Hourly Inspection (1 page)
- Record: Daily Humane Handling Audit Log-Lamb (1 page)
- Record: Confirmation Lamb Knife Sharpening Log (1 page)
- Record: Electrical Stunner Check Log (1 page)

Based on your submitted written response, you were informed via telephone on November 23, 2020, that the suspension of the assignment of inspectors for slaughter operations at your establishment would be held in abeyance effective November 24, 2020, in accordance with regulation 9 CFR 500.3(b). The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS personnel.

During the abeyance period a verification plan will be in place to ensure proffered corrective actions and preventative measures are effective in assuring ongoing regulatory compliance. The verification activities are to be conducted by IPP and results will be reported to the District Office. The decision to hold the suspension action in abeyance was based on the proffered actions. If any modifications to your proffered corrective actions and preventive measures are necessary during the abeyance period, you must submit your proposed changes in writing to the Des Moines District Office for review prior to implementation.

Please be advised that, as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply FSIS regulations and to take appropriate corrective action to prevent inhumane handling of livestock at your establishment. Your failure to comply with these requirements or to implement the measures in your action plan could result in reinstatement of the suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate administrative or legal action.

If you have questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Des Moines District Office at 515-727-8960, (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Sincerely,

THOMAS BECK Digitally signed by THOMAS BECK
Date: 2020.11.25 12:53:01 -06'00'

Dawn Sprouls, DVM
District Manager
USDA FSIS OFO
Des Moines District Office