



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations
Des Moines District
Office

Neal Smith Federal
Building
210 Walnut Street
Room 985
Des Moines, IA
50309-2123

Voice 515.727.8960
Fax 515.727.8991

August 27, 2020

Signed Original sent via FedEx
Signed copy Hand Delivered

Randy Hanson
Verschoor Meats, Inc.
P.O. Box 2410
1401 Bluff Road
Sioux City, IA 51106

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Hanson:

On August 25, 2020, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued a Notice of Suspension (NOS) withholding the marks of inspection and suspending the assignment of slaughter inspection program personnel (IPP) for livestock slaughter at Est. M363, Verschoor Meats, Inc., located at 1401 Bluff Road, Sioux City, IA 51106, herein referred to as "your establishment". This action was taken in accordance with the Rules of Practice, 9 CFR 500.3(b), which indicates that FSIS may take 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 August 25, 2020.

On August 25 and 26, 2020, you provided FSIS, via email, written corrective actions 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 313.15}.

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

- Corrective Actions
- Kill Floor Air Powered Stunner
- Monitoring Hog Knockers and Shacklers Template
- Knocker and Training Knocker Expectations
- Job #6B Stunner
- Temple Crandon [Grandin] Knocker Training
- Using Restrainer Properly
- Training Knocker

- CASH Humane Stunner Instructions for Safe Operation
- Randy Observing Knocker Record Template
- Compressors Training
- Stunning, Handling, and Determining Insensibility in Pigs - Temple Grandin training

Based on your submitted written response, you were informed via telephone on August 26, 2020 that the suspension of the assignment of IPP for slaughter operations at your establishment would be held in abeyance effective August 27, 2020, in accordance with regulation 9 CFR 500.3(b). The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS personnel that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been effectively implemented. Establishment personnel should monitor operations to prevent violations of humane handling and slaughter from occurring in the future. It is also important for you to understand the responsibility of FSIS to initiate action when there is a failure to operate in accordance with 9 CFR Part 313 of the regulations.

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 on a weekly basis. The decision to hold the suspension action in abeyance was based on the proffered actions. Any modifications to your submitted corrective actions and preventive measures made during the abeyance period need to be submitted in writing to the FSIS Des Moines District Office for review prior to implementation by your establishment.

Please be advised that, as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with 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 (b) (6), or (b) (6) or the Des Moines District Office at 515-727-8960.

Sincerely,

TODD

Digitally signed by TODD GERWIG
Date: 2020.08.27 12:31:07 -05'00'

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