



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations

Atlanta District Office

100 Alabama St., SW.
Suite 3R90
Atlanta, GA. 30303
Phone: 404-562-5900
Fax: 404-562-5877
Toll Free:
800-282-7005

Certified mail

August 12, 2020

Ms. Leigh Anne Cason, Plant Manager
Fries Frozen Foods, LLC, Est. M46622
846 S. Grey Street
Millen, GA 30442

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Ms. Cason:

On August 11, 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 for livestock slaughter at Fries Frozen Foods, LLC, Est. M46622, located at 1846 S. Grey Street Millen, GA 30442. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313.

On August 11, 2020, you submitted written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. During a telephone conversation with the District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS) you were notified that you did not adequately identify the cause of the incident and that your response to the NOS needed clarification. You clarified that:

1. The employee had injured his hand prior to applying the first stun and that he should not have attempted to stun the steer.
2. Examination of the skull indicated that one shot (probably the first shot) was low as compared to the other points of entry.
3. To prevent recurrence, you would retrain and document retraining of your employees regarding:
 - a. Proper shot placement for livestock.
 - b. Notifying management if they were unable to perform their duties.
4. You will monitor and document monitoring of stunning effectiveness of all livestock during the abeyance period.

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5. You will monitor and document monitoring of stunning employee wellness daily during the abeyance period.

As discussed, you were asked to provide copies of the training material and records documenting retraining of employees regarding proper shot placement for stunning cattle and employee wellness and to provide a copy of the record that will be used to monitor daily monitoring of cattle stunning effectiveness and employee wellness.

On August 12, 2020, you provide the requested documentation and you were verbally notified that these corrective actions and preventive measure meet the requirements to place Fries Frozen Foods, LLC, Est. M46622, in a Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHA).

Please be further advised that this suspension of inspection at your establishment will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been implemented and are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance and preventing the inhumane treatment of animals. Agency personnel will begin immediate verification of your corrective actions and preventive measures.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan is attached to assist you in understanding the nature and importance of the agency's verification activities. The FSIS Verification Plan is designed to verify that your establishment fully implements the corrective actions and preventive measures stated in your responses, and that these corrective actions and preventive measures are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your corrective actions, the regulatory requirement(s), and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proposed action plan.

Please be reminded that as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate actions to prevent the inhumane handling of animals. It is important for you to understand that FSIS has the responsibility to initiate action if your establishment fails to operate in accordance with the regulations, or conditions occur that do not comply with the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Please be advised that failure to comply with these regulatory requirements or failure to effectively implement your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action.

If you have any questions, please contact the Atlanta District Office at 404-562-5900.

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Sincerely,



Dr. Phyllis Adams
District Manager

cc: Phil Bronstein, AA/OFO
Hany Sidrak, DAA/OFO
Michael Watts, EARO/OFO
Scott Safian, ELD/OIEA
Larry Hortert, RD/CID/OIEA

(b) (6)

Ghias Mughal, DDM/OFO
Tracy Bryant, DDM/OFO
Barney Welch, DDM/OFO

(b) (6)



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Fries Frozen Food, LLC Establishment M46622 Verification Plan

Week ending: _____

This Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Verification Plan is designed to verify that the establishment fully implements the corrective actions and preventive measures proffered in response to the Notice of Suspension (NOS) issued on August 11, 2020.

The Verification Plan will be utilized by inspection personnel and the Atlanta District Office to evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective actions in assuring future regulatory compliance. This FSIS Verification Plan identifies the corrective actions, the relevant regulatory requirements, and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of the proposed action plan. These tasks can be performed as an unscheduled task if the task is not scheduled on the Daily Procedure Schedule. After completion, inspection personnel will send this report on a Bi-weekly basis to the District Case Specialist and the District Veterinary Medical Office for review. Complete this report once every two (2) weeks.

Handling of Livestock

<u>Issue/Action</u>	<u>Regulation</u>	<u>PHIS Code</u>
1. Verify by direct observation and/or record review that the establishment personnel monitor and record the results of stunning effectiveness for all animals slaughtered during the abeyance period. (each day of slaughter)	9 CFR 313.16.	HH Task – PHIS HATS Category VII.

Finding:

VERIFICATION PLAN

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2. Verify by record review that establishment personnel monitor and document monitoring of stunning employee wellness. (weekly)	9 CFR 313.16.	HH Task – PHIS HATS Category VII.
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3. Verify by record review that all employees performing stunning have been properly retrained on the proper shot placement for livestock. (Once) Verify that the training is documented. (Once)	9 CFR 313.16.	HH Task – PHIS HATS Category VII.
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COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Two Week Period Ending -

Comments:

Continue Verification Process: Yes/No

No Further Action/ Close with a Letter of Warning:

Yes/No Signature of IPP: