



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

November 12, 2020

Signed copy hand-delivered

Office of Field
Operations
Des Moines District
Office

Ross Williams
Nordik Meats, Inc.
E7342 Three Chimney Road
Viroqua, WI 54665

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

**NOTICE OF REINSTATEMENT OF SUSPENSION
HELD IN ABEYANCE**

Voice 515.727.8960
Fax 515.727.8991

Dear Mr. Williams:

On November 10, 2020, your establishment received verbal notification, followed by official written notification, from the Des Moines District, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of the notice of reinstatement of the suspension (NROS) of assignment of inspection program personnel (IPP), for slaughter operations at establishment M47261, Nordik Meats, Inc., located at E7342 Three Chimney Road in Viroqua, WI, 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 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 10, 2020.

On November 10, 2020, you provided FSIS, via emails, written corrective actions and preventive measures in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the Notice of Reinstatement of Suspension (NROS). 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 *et seq*, the *Humane Methods of Slaughter Act* (HMSA) (72 Statue 862; 7 U.S.C. 1901 to 1906 *et seq*), and federal regulations {Title 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR) Part 313.15}.

The establishments response was contained in the body of the email and the following attached documents, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed:

- Captive Bolt Placement for Sheep (1 page)
- Picture of Implicated Head (1 image)
- SOP Sheep Knock Box Monitoring Record (1 page)
- Nordik Company Training Log for Knock Box and Bolt Gun (1 page)
- Nordik Company Training Log for Knock Box and Bolt Gun, (b) (6) (1 page)

Based on your submitted written response, you were informed, via telephone, that the suspension of the assignment of inspectors for slaughter operations at your establishment would be held in abeyance effective November 11, 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.

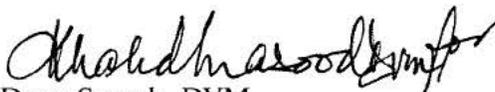
During the abeyance period a verification plan will be in place to ensure proffered corrective actions and preventative measures are effective in assuring ongoing regulatory compliance. The verification activities are to be conducted by IPP and results will be reported to the Des Moines District on a 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 Des Moines District 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 Des Moines District Office at 515-727-8960, (b) (6) at (b) (6) or (b) (6)

Sincerely,


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