

Situation-Based Humane Handling Training

Module One – Animal Handling: Truck Unloading through Entrance to Stunning Area

Note: Module Two will cover Stunning and Post-Stunning Situations

Objective: When presented with specific situations at livestock slaughter establishments, participants will be able to:

- Identify humane-related regulatory noncompliance,
- Determine whether it is egregious, and
- Select appropriate actions to be taken.

Instructions: Each situation is to be read and discussed as a group with facilitation provided by the PHV, or designee. After discussing each situation, participants should have a thorough understanding of the proper response. A minimum score of 70% must be achieved on the final exam for course credit.

Situations

1. Ice, snow, or mud buildup is causing cattle to slip and slide on the unloading chute. Two animals fall down but immediately rise and appear unhurt.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?
2. A sow goes down at the bottom of the truck unloading chute. Dozens of swine continue to exit the trailer for several minutes repeatedly stepping on and hitting the downed sow which vocalizes loudly in response.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?
3. Cattle are left in the alleyway overnight and cannot reach the water troughs. All animals appear to be in good condition.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?
4. An electric battery-operated prod is used only occasionally on balking swine at the conveyor-restrainer entrance. The prod is never used on the anus, eyes, ears, or other sensitive parts and is not used excessively on any of the animals.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

5. Bob veal calves are being calmly moved through an alleyway into a knocking box. One bob veal calf goes down just prior to the knocking box entrance. An establishment employee shocks the calf repeatedly with an electric prod. The calf vocalizes and tries to avoid the prodding but does not rise and the prodding continues.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

6. A local rancher is unloading a group of thirty small weaning pigs from a gooseneck trailer onto a ground level alley floor with no ramp. The pigs are jumping off the trailer and three of them, unable to gain traction upon landing, fall to the ground. The fallen pigs struggle to regain their footing and run excitedly into the alley but appear to be unharmed.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

7. An establishment employee drags a nonambulatory disabled (NAD) conscious lamb from the front of a trailer.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

8. A cow in a chute with limited room to move (stopped animal in front and gate behind) is shocked repeatedly in the anus. The cow vocalizes loudly and tries to push against the animal ahead.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

9. Pens are overfilled with pigs to the extent that many cannot reach the water troughs. All animals appear to be in good condition.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

10. Brahma-cross cattle are running down the chute and alleyway from the unloading dock. They appear very excited and some foot slippage occurs, but establishment employees are following recommended animal handling practices and do not appear to be doing anything to make them run or be excited. Floor surfaces are a slip resistant waffle-type concrete pattern and appear to be maintained as to provide good footing.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

11. An establishment employee is operating a forklift and using its sharp, bare metal forks to roll and lift a nonambulatory disabled (NAD) conscious cow. The cow vocalizes loudly in response.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

12. Establishment employees use an electric prod to shock all of the cattle when moving them up to the captive bolt stunning area even though they don't appear to be balking. Numerous animals "flinch" in reaction to the prod.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

13. Several nail heads are protruding from the wooden boards on the inside of the unloading chute. Large clumps of hair are adhered to some them.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

14. As a truckload of market hogs are unloaded it is apparent that there are a considerable number of "slow moving" animals in the group. The establishment employees recognize this and sort the "slow moving" hogs into a separate lot according to the establishment's program for handling such animals.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?

15. A nonambulatory disabled (NAD) dairy cow is present in a pen of animals presented for antemortem inspection by the establishment. When the plant employee presenting the animals for antemortem realizes the cow is unable to rise, he moves the other cows to an adjacent pen in a calm manner that avoids any injury to the NAD cow.
 - Does this scenario represent noncompliance?
 - If so, is it an egregious situation?
 - What action should be taken by inspection personnel?