Livestock Humane Handling Inspection Task
Data Documentation

Overview

The Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901, 1902, and 1906) requires the handling and slaughtering of livestock be carried out only by humane methods. Inspection program personnel (IPP) perform the Livestock Humane Handling Verification Task at least once per slaughter shift. This task is performed when slaughter operations are being conducted by the official establishment or when animals are on the official establishment premise, although slaughter operations are not scheduled to be conducted. Regulations verified during the performance of the Livestock Humane Handling Verification Task can include any combination of Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 313.1-313.90. The Regulations verified during the performance of a Livestock Humane Handling Verification Task may vary due to differences in inspected establishments and the processes available for IPP to verify at the time verification task is performed.

Records are eligible for inclusion if the Inspection Task Code value is 04C02 (Livestock Humane Handling). The Livestock Humane Handling task is only applicable to amenable species as defined in the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA).

These data contain information on livestock humane handling inspection task verifications. Also, noncompliance records (NRs) or Memorandum of Interview (MOIs) associated with the task are reported. NRs are only eligible for inclusion if the NR regulations (NRRegs) or NR description (NRDescription) field is populated. Rows in the data that don’t contain NR fields indicate instances of the task where inspectors did not find regulatory noncompliance.

This dataset is a snapshot in time of a dynamic process. For example, matters shown as open may be finalized by the time this dataset is published. Datasets are posted by fiscal quarter with a quarter lag on the first Friday of the next quarter. For example, we plan to post data for Fiscal Year 2021 Quarter 4 on January 7, 2022. This information is updated on a quarterly basis and will be made available to the public in future datasets.

Establishments may present objections to content within a MOI. Objections by establishments to content documented in MOIs are reviewed by FSIS. The results of reviewed objections could be modification of the content documented within the MOI or deletion of the MOI if determined appropriate based on the support provided.

NRs can be appealed. An establishment may appeal an inspection decision per 9 CFR 306.5. Establishments may appeal an inspector’s decision to the next level of supervision if they feel their operation was in compliance, incorrect facts were evaluated to document non-compliance, the incorrect regulation was cited, or additional pertinent facts were not considered when non-compliance was determined. Currently, there is no time limitation for establishments to appeal inspection decisions. FSIS responds to the appeal by either granting the appeal, granting the appeal with modification to the NR, or denying the appeal. The result of a granted appeal could be modification of the description of the noncompliance within the NR or removal of the record as a result of support provided indicating the establishment was in compliance with the applicable regulatory requirements.
All personally identifiable information (e.g., names, phone numbers, titles) and any corporate proprietary information has been redacted.

Additional information regarding humane handling can be found on the FSIS website. Please note that as of September 24, 2020, FSIS modified the definition of egregious inhumane treatment and updated instructions to IPP. IPP are now instructed to document egregious inhumane treatment as a NR instead of an MOI as was the instruction prior to September 24, 2020.

Data Dictionary

Data elements are listed in the order in which they appear in the dataset.

- **EstablishmentID**
  - Definition: A unique number identifier that is used to identify an establishment across data tables in FSIS databases.

- **EstablishmentNumber**
  - Definition: A letter/number combination uniquely identifying each establishment.
  - Each establishment is assigned a number for each FSIS grant of inspection. Each number is preceded by a variable prefix to indicate the type of grant.
    - M = Meat
    - P = Poultry
    - I = Imports
    - G = Eggs
    - V = Voluntary
  - Some establishment numbers also have a suffix letter. These letters indicate different establishments.
  - Establishments with multiple numbers have multiple grants of inspection. When this happens, the different numbers are joined with a ‘+’.
  - Examples
    - **M1234** – The prefix ‘M’ indicates that the establishment has a meat grant. The ‘1234’ is the numerical portion that goes with the meat grant.
    - **P1234** – The prefix ‘P’ indicates that the establishment has a poultry grant. The ‘1234’ is the numerical portion that goes with the poultry grant.
    - Note: If an establishment has more than one grant, the numerical portions may be the same, but that is not required
      - If establishment M234 has a poultry grant as well, the poultry number might be P234, but it could be a different number
      - If M234 has a poultry number that is different than P234, (e.g. M234+P567), then P234 is available and could be the number of a different establishment
    - **M1234A and M1234B** would be different establishments because they have different suffixes.

- **EstablishmentName**
  - Definition: The name of an establishment on the FSIS grant of inspection.

- **InspectionDate**
  - Definition: The date of the inspection task.
• InspectionTypeCategory
  o Definition: A category that denotes whether the inspection was routine or directed.
    ▪ Routine: Inspection verification activities conducted on a routine, ongoing, or
      planned basis whenever the establishment is in operation.
    ▪ Directed: Inspection verification activities performed on an as-needed basis.
• ShiftTypeID
  o Definition: An identifier to distinguish between Shift 1 and Shift 2.
  o Values:
    ▪ 1: Shift 1
    ▪ 2: Shift 2
• InspectionTaskCode
  o Definition: A short name given to identify an inspection task. The task code in this data
    set is ‘04C02’.
• InspectionTaskName
  o Definition: The name for given task code. For example, a value of ‘04C02’ represents
    tasks associated with Livestock Humane Handling.
• TaskId
  o Definition: A unique identifier that is used to identify each inspection task.
• RegsVerified
  o Definition: The regulations that were verified in the inspection task.
• RegsVerifiedCount
  o Definition: The number of regulations that were verified in the inspection task.
• NoncomplianceID
  o Definition: A unique identifier for a specific noncompliance within a noncompliance
    record.
• NRNumber
  o Definition: The noncompliance record number.
• NRRegs
  o Definition: The regulations associated with the specific noncompliance in the
    noncompliance record.
• NRRegsCount
  o Definition: The number of regulations associated with the specific noncompliance in the
    noncompliance record.
• NRStatus
  o Definition: This item provides the status of the noncompliance record at the time the
    data were pulled.
  o Values:
    ▪ Open
    ▪ Closed
• NRDescription
  o Definition: The description of the specific noncompliance within the noncompliance
    record.
• MOINumber
  o Definition: The unique identifier that identifies each MOI.
• MOIDate
  o Definition: The date that the MOI record was opened.
• MOIStatus
Definition: This item provides the status of the MOI at the time the data were pulled.

Values:
- Open
- Finalized

MOIDescription
Definition: The narrative portion of the MOI documentation.

Relationship to Other Data

The data can be combined with other FSIS datasets using the EstablishmentID variable.

Notes and Limitations

To calculate the noncompliance rate, take the sum of the NRRegsCount column and divide it by the sum of the RegsVerifiedCount column.

Information about FSIS’ noncompliance reports can be found in FSIS’ “What is a Noncompliance Report” article. More information regarding appealing NRs can be found in Directives 13,000.3, Rev. 1 and 5000.1, Rev. 5 as well as the FSIS Fact Sheet: Appeal Inspection Decisions.

Information on the objection to the content in an MOI can be found in Directives 5000.1, Rev. 5, 5010.1, Rev. 2, and 6900.2, Rev. 3. Directive 6900.2, Rev. 3 also provides information regarding egregious inhumane handling. Per a change in policy as of September 24, 2020, egregious humane handling violations are documented as a noncompliance record and may result in a Notice of Intended Enforcement or suspension. Information on official enforcement actions FSIS has taken against establishments that have been found in violation of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act is available on the FSIS website.