



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations
Des Moines District
Office

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

Voice 515.727.8960
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January 20, 2023

Digitally signed copy emailed

Randy Hanson, Establishment Administrator
Verschoor Meats, Inc.
P.O. Box 2410
Sioux City, IA 51106

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Randy Hanson:

This letter confirms verbal notification provided by the Des Moines District Office, Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to establishment M363, Verschoor Meats, Inc., located at 1401 Bluff Road, Sioux City, IA establishment herein referred to as the/your establishment, of the decision to place the Notice of Suspension (NOS) for an egregious humane handling event, initiated on January 16, 2023, into abeyance (NOSA).

On January 16 and 17, 2023, via multiple emails, you provided FSIS written corrective actions and preventive measures, in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the NOS. The final 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(a)(3)}.

The following documents were included, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed at your establishment:

- Establishment Incident Report (1 Page)
- Establishment Incident Report Revision 1 (1 Page)
- Establishment Incident Report Revision 2 (2 Pages)
- Establishment Incident Report Revision 3 (2 Pages)
- QC Hog Knocking Chart (1 Page)
- Knocker Training (1 Page)
- Knocker Training Revision 1 (1 Page)
- Knocker Training Revision 2 (1 Page)

Based on your written response, you were informed via telephone, that the suspension of the assignment of IPP, for slaughter operations, at your establishment is held in abeyance effective January 17, 2023.

The suspension will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS personnel that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been effectively implemented and are adequate to maintain compliance. 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 verification activities will be conducted by IPP and results will be reported to the Des Moines District Office on a weekly basis. The decision to hold the suspension action in abeyance is 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 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 the Des Moines District Office at 515-727-8960, or District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS), (b) (6) at (b) (6) or (b) (6) at (b) (6).

Sincerely,

MARK
JOHNSON
Digitally signed
by MARK
JOHNSON
Date: 2023.01.21
13:15:41 -06'00' (for)

Dr. Dawn Sprouls
District Manager
USDA FSIS OFO DO
Des Moines, IA