



November 25, 2024

St. Croix Abattoir
Establishment M482
#1 Estate Lower Love, RR1 Box 1034
St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00850
curleen.rogers@doa.vi.gov
340-778-0997

HAND DELIVERED on November 25, 2024
ELECTRONIC MAIL on November 25, 2024
FEDEX TRACKING NUMBER

Attention: Ms. Curleen Rogers, Director/Plant Manager

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

On November 21, 2024, 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 St. Croix Abattoir, Est. M482, located at #1 Estate Lower Love, RR1 Box 10345, St. Croix, Virgin Islands 00850. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313.

On November 22, 2024, you submitted written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. In your response you stated: the stunning operator underestimated the size of the boar, which was significantly larger than our typical livestock received at the abattoir. Two attempts with the electrical stunner failed to render the animal unconscious, necessitating the immediate use of the captive bolt.

Your corrective actions and preventive measures included: revising the stunning procedures to use the captive bolt as the primary stunning method for boars and sows. All employees involved in stunning operations were trained in both electrical and captive bolt usage to ensure proper handling. The Humane Handling Procedures were revised to mandate the use of captive bolt on boars and sows. The stunning operator will acknowledge use of the captive bolt on the Humane Handling form prior to slaughter operations. The Humane Handling Form and the Antemortem Inspection Form identifies each species by class and is documented during receiving animals at the abattoir. The designated stunning operator will sign the Human Handling form confirming they have been notified to use the captive bolt for identified boars and sows. The establishment will monitor effective stunning during operations on every animal received for the next thirty (30) slaughter days. The Acting QC or designee will conduct monitoring verifications.

On November 22, 2024, you were verbally notified by Ms. Tracy Bryant, Deputy District Manager (DDM), that the corrective actions and preventive measures met the requirements to place St. Croix Abattoir, Est. M482 in Abeyance and that a Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHA) and a Verification Plan (VP) would be issued. You are hereby being provided written notification of the Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance.

Ms. Curleen Rogers, Director/Plant Manager
St. Croix Abattoir, Est. M482

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
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Please be further advised that the 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 revisions to its humane handling of animals and other corrective actions stated in your responses, and that these revisions and corrective actions are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your proposed 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.

Sincerely,

PHYLLIS
Digitally signed
by PHYLLIS
ADAMS
ADAMS
Date: 2024.11.25
14:42:07 -05'00'

Dr. Phyllis Adams
District Manager

Ms. Curleen Rogers, Director/Plant Manager
St. Croix Abattoir, Est. M482

Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance
November 25, 2024

cc: Sherri Johnson, EARO
Phyllis Adams, DM
(b) (6), Humane Handling Enforcement Coordinator
Larry Hortert, OIEA Regional Director
Edward Hepburn, DDM
Barney Welch, DDM
Tracy Bryant, DDM
(b) (6), SEIAO
Geneva Dennis, DCS
(b) (6), DVMS
(b) (6), FLS
(b) (6), SPHV
FO/Quarterly Reports