



Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations
Des Moines
District Office

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

Voice
515.727.8960
Fax 515.727.8991

September 20, 2024

Electronic Mail on September 20, 2024

Timbra Thies, Plant Manager
Smithfield Fresh Meats Corp.
800 Industrial Drive
Denison, Iowa 5144
Est. M717
tthies@smithfield.com
712-263-5002

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Attention: Timbra Thies

This letter serves as official notification by the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) of our decision to place the Notice of Suspension (NOS), initiated on August 20, 2024, at, Smithfield Fresh Meats Corp., Est. M717, located at 800 Industrial Drive, Denison, IA. into abeyance. This letter follows verbal notification provided by District Manager, Jeff Jacobsen to Timbra Thies, Plant Manager, 1535 hours on August 19, 2024.

On August 19, 2024, you provided FSIS, via emails, written corrective actions and preventive measures, in response to the regulatory noncompliance detailed in the NOS. 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), 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}. The following documents were included, detailing actions immediately implemented and further proposed at your establishment:

Specifically:

- NOS Email response, August 20, 2024, at 1:04pm
 - (b) (4) Animal Handling Monitoring
 - Stunning & Sticking Training Slides
 - Non-Ambulatory Training Slides
 - General Training Log: Non-Ambulatory
- NOS Email response, August 20, 2024 at 3:02pm
 - Clarification Response
 - (b) (4) Gate PM Record
- NOS Email response, August 20, 2024, at 4:45pm
 - Gate pressure check statement

Based on your written response, the suspension of the assignment of IPP, for slaughter operations, at your establishment is held in abeyance. 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 reoccurring. 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 program personnel 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 (b) (6)
(b) (6)

Sincerely,

**MARK
JOHNSO**  Digitally signed by
MARK JOHNSON
Date: 2024.09.20
08:56:41 -05'00' (for)

Mr. Jeffery Jacobsen
District Manager
USDA FSIS OFO
Des Moines District