

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

09-19

4/4/19

CHANGES TO THE MEAT REGULATIONS

I. PURPOSE

This notice announces two changes that FSIS has made in the regulations in 9 CFR.

II. ELIMINATION OF 9 CFR 310.11

A. Effective 4/8/19, FSIS will remove the redundant regulatory requirement at 9 CFR 310.11, previously “*Cleaning of hog carcasses before incising*” (See [84 FR 2430](#)), requiring the cleaning of hog carcasses before any incision is made preceding evisceration. This regulation will be removed from the Public Health Information System. Inspection program personnel (IPP) are to continue to verify that hog carcasses are handled in a clean and sanitary manner throughout the dressing process as required by 9 CFR 416.4(d). IPP are also to continue inspect every carcass at final rail inspection to verify that they are not contaminated as required in 9 CFR 310.18(a).

B. FSIS determined that the regulation at 9 CFR 310.11 was unnecessary because of existing regulations on sanitation and standard operating procedures (9 CFR parts 304, 416), hazard analysis and critical control point (HACCP) systems (9 CFR part 417), and another post-mortem inspection regulation (9 CFR 310.18) that require sanitary conditions for the handling of carcasses. The regulation at 9 CFR 310.18 addresses the prevention and removal of contamination from carcasses (before or after incision), organs, and other parts. The regulation requires the removal of any contamination remaining or occurring post-incision or post-evisceration.

C. Also, effective 4/8/19, FSIS will eliminate the *Salmonella* Initiative Program (SIP) waivers issued to establishments to waive 310.11 and the [SIP Waiver Table](#) will be updated.

D. The removal of the regulatory requirement at 9 CFR 310.11 does not change the obligation of an establishment to handle carcasses in a sanitary manner to prevent contamination and to do so in a way that is satisfactory to the inspector (9 CFR 310.18).

III. MODIFICATION TO 9 CFR 316.9

A. Effective 4/17/19, FSIS will modify the regulation at 9 CFR 316.9, “*Products to be marked with official marks*” (See [84 FR 9695](#)) to eliminate the requirement that all livestock carcasses be marked with the official inspection legend at the time of inspection in a slaughter establishment, provided the carcasses are further processed in the same establishment.

B. Any previous instructions issued to IPP regarding this practice are obsolete.

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C. IPP are to continue to verify that carcasses that pass inspection, but do not receive the mark of inspection when leaving the slaughter floor, proceed for further processing in that establishment.

D. IPP are to continue to verify that whole carcasses leaving the slaughter establishment bear the mark of inspection.

IV. QUESTIONS

Refer questions through supervisory channels.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert J. Wagner". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development