



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Office of Field
Operations

Springdale District

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Suite B-201
Springdale, AR 72764
Voice 479-751-8412
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March 23, 2020

Via Email: wsmeats@yahoo.com
FedEx Tracking: 770073237725

Mr. Ed Woods, Owner
Woods Smoked Meats, Inc., Est. M/P2938
1501 Business Highway 54 West
Bowling Green, MO 63334

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Woods,

On March 17, 2020, the Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) notified you of the suspension of the assignment of inspection personnel at your facility. This Notice of Suspension (NOS) was based on the Rules of Practice specified in Title 9 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 500.3(b) due to your establishment's failure to prevent inhumane handling and slaughtering of livestock at your facility as required by 9 CFR 313.2(a).

On March 18, 2020, you provided a written response (Action Plan) to the NOS via email, beginning a dialogue with FSIS that concluded with your final Action Plan submission on March 19, 2020. FSIS analyzed the corrective and preventive measures provided in your Action Plan and subsequent revisions, and determined they represented compliance or the intent to comply with all applicable regulations. Therefore, FSIS will hold the suspension in abeyance pending verification by FSIS personnel that your Action Plan is effectively implemented. You were verbally notified of the suspension being held in abeyance on March 19, 2020, and this letter serves as formal, written notification of the same.

An abeyance is a moratorium on the effect of a suspension. Once a suspension is imposed, the Agency may put it into abeyance if the establishment undertakes corrective and preventive actions that the Agency finds will ensure that the conditions that were the basis for the suspension will be eliminated, and the Action Plan is effectively implemented. During the abeyance period, FSIS personnel will evaluate your corrective and preventive actions to ensure their effectiveness.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan is being shared with you to assist in understanding the nature and importance of the Agency's verification activities. This FSIS Verification Plan is designed to verify that your establishment fully implements the Action Plan identified in your proposal and subsequent clarifications, and that measures proffered are effective in assuring ongoing regulatory compliance. It identifies the regulatory noncompliance, your actions, and FSIS verification procedures.

Mr. Ed Woods, Owner
Woods Smoked Meats, Inc., Est. M2938+P2938+V2938
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Please be advised that your failure to comply with statutory and regulatory requirements, to implement the corrective actions identified in the Action Plan, and/or failure to notify this office in writing of any changes to the Action Plan may result in us initiating further regulatory action as deemed necessary at the time. **During this period of abeyance, any changes made to the Action Plan need to be submitted to this office for review and comment prior to you putting the changes into place.** FSIS inspection program personnel will notify the Frontline Supervisor and District Office immediately when modifications are made to the Action Plan and your establishment fails to notify this office.

If you have any questions, please contact this office.

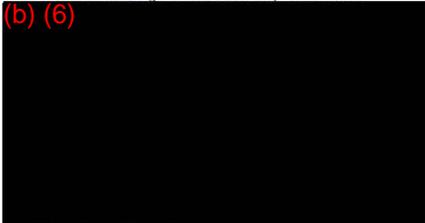
Sincerely,



Robert Q. Bane
District Manager

cc: Ms. Geraldine French, Acting EARO
Dr. Evan Sumner, DDM
Dr. Don Dowdle, DDM
Mr. Jeffery Barham, DDM

(b) (6)



FO/Quarterly Reports

FSIS Verification Plan

Woods Smoked Meats, Inc. (Est. M2938+P2938+V2938)

Background that led to enforcement action (Bkgd)

Related Regulations (Reg)

Establishment Action Plan (AP)

Related Establishment Records (Rec)

FSIS Verification Activity (VA)

Frequency of Verification Activity (Freq)

Related PHIS Task (PHIS)

VP1	On 3/17/2020, IPP observed an establishment employee stamping and kicking hogs to get them to move faster. The employee subsequently stepped on the back of a hog to climb over the gate and continue to kick the hogs in the face. The hogs were making loud squealing noises.
	9 CFR 313.2(a)
	All slaughter floor employees and cleaning crew personnel have been trained in humane handling, including use of plastic paddle sticks and plywood separator boards to better guide swine through the pens and alley ways. The plastic paddle sticks and hot shots, used in moderation, will be used to move cattle.
	Training documents, Humane handling procedures
	Observe animal handling practices to verify that animals are driven with a minimum of excitement and discomfort to the animals.
	Once per slaughter day
	Livestock Humane Handling
VP2	On 3/17/2020, IPP observed an establishment employee stamping and kicking hogs to get them to move faster. The employee subsequently stepped on the back of a hog to climb over the gate and continue to kick the hogs in the face. The hogs were making loud squealing noises.
	9 CFR 313.2(a)
	Management will monitor the handling of livestock on each inspected slaughter date and document findings on the new livestock handling monitoring form.
	Humane Handling Checklist (each slaughter day); Form for Humane Handling of Livestock (monthly)
	Observe the monitoring procedure performed by management and review the associated documentation to verify that the procedures are effective in evaluating employee animal handling practices.
	Once per week
	Livestock Humane Handling
VP3	On 3/17/2020, IPP observed an establishment employee stamping and kicking hogs to get them to move faster. The employee subsequently stepped on the back of a hog to climb over the gate and continue to kick the hogs in the face. The hogs were making loud squealing noises.
	9 CFR 313.2(a)
	Any newly-hired employees will be trained in humane handling, including use of plastic paddle sticks and plywood separator boards to better guide swine through the pens and alley ways. The plastic paddle sticks and hot shots, used in moderation, will be used to move cattle.
	Training documents, Humane handling procedures
	Verify that any new employees have been trained in using the humane handling documents. For VP3, use "A" to indicate that there was a new employee who was trained as specified, "U" to indicate that there were no new employees hired during the week, and "N" to indicate that a new employee was hired by the establishment failed to conduct the specified training.
	Once per week
	Livestock Humane Handling