



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

November 15, 2019

Office of Field
Operations

Certified mail

Atlanta District Office

100 Alabama St., SW,
Suite 3R90
Atlanta, GA. 30303
Phone: 404-562-5900
Fax: 404-562-5877
Toll Free:
800-282-7005

Mr. Reed Brown, Plant Manager
Brown Packing Co., Inc., Est. M1085
116 Willis St.
Gaffney, SC 29340

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Brown:

On November 15, 2019, 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 Brown Packing Co., Inc., Est. M1085, located at 116 Willis St. Gaffney, SC 29340. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313.

On November 15, 2019, you submitted written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. Based on your assessment, you determined that an employee did not follow livestock handling training and procedures in your humane handling program. Your corrective actions included: the employee was suspended and will be transferred to another department when his suspension is completed, and; an increase of animal welfare audits from twice weekly to daily for the next two weeks.

On November 15, 2019, you were notified by FSIS that your corrective actions were inadequate and needed further clarification and supporting documentation. You were asked to provide a current copy of the animal welfare program at Brown Packing Company, Inc., a copy of the record used to document monitoring of the program, documentation to support that your employees have been retrained in the proper movement of livestock and proper prod usage, and clarification of the number of audits that will be done daily. You were also notified that increasing the animal welfare audits from twice weekly to daily for the next two weeks was not adequate to ensure that employees are properly trained and following plant procedures.

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On November 15, 2019, you submitted additional clarification for your written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The additional clarification addressed all the above issues.

On November 15, 2019, you were verbally notified that these corrective actions and preventive measure meet the requirements to place Browns Packing Co., Inc., in a Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHA).

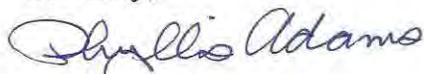
Please be further advised that this suspension of inspection at your establishment will remain in abeyance pending verification by FSIS that your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures have been implemented and are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance and preventing the inhumane 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 corrective actions and preventive measures stated in your responses, and that these corrective actions and preventive measures are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your 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,



Dr. Phyllis Adams
District Manager

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cc: Phil Bronstein, AA/OFO
Hany Sidrak, DAA/OFO
Michael Watts, EARO/OFO
Scott Safian, ELD/OIEA
Larry Hortert, RD/CID/OIEA

(b) (6)

Ghias Mughal, DDM/OFO
Tracy Bryant, DDM/OFO
Barney Welch, DDM/OFO

(b) (6)



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Brown Packing Co., Inc. Establishment M1085 Verification Plan

Week Ending: _____

This Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) Verification Plan is designed to verify that the establishment fully implements the corrective actions and preventive measures proffered in response to the Notice of Suspension (NOS) issued on November 15, 2019.

The Verification Plan will be utilized by inspection personnel and the Atlanta District Office to evaluate the effectiveness of the corrective actions in assuring future regulatory compliance. This FSIS Verification Plan identifies the corrective actions, the relevant regulatory requirements, and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of the proposed action plan. These tasks can be performed as an unscheduled task, if the task is not scheduled on the Daily Procedure Schedule. After completion, send this report on a Bi-weekly basis to the District Case Specialist and the District Veterinary Medical Office for review. Complete this report once every two (2) weeks.

Handling of Livestock

<u>Issue/Action</u>	<u>Regulation</u>	<u>PHIS Code</u>
1. Verify by direct observation &/or record review that (b) (6) (b) (6) monitor and record the results of daily animal welfare audits during the abeyance period. (each day of slaughter)	9 CFR §313.2(a) & (b).	HH Task – PHIS HATS Category VI.

Finding:

VERIFICATION PLAN

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COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Two Week Period Ending -

Comments:

Continue Verification Process: Yes/No

No Further Action/ Close with a Letter of Warning:

Yes/No Signature of IPP: