



United States Department of Agriculture

Food Safety and Inspection
Service
Office of Field Operations
Jackson District Office
713 S Pear Orchard Rd,
Plaza 2, Suite 402
Ridgeland, MS 39157

June 2, 2020

Via Email: Hamasharazori@yahoo.com

Mr. Mohammad Amjadi, Owner
Mr. Bahman Hoshmand, Owner
TN Slaughter House, Inc., Est. M46969
8965 US Highway 70 East
McEwen, TN 37101

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Amjadi and Mr. Hoshmand:

On May 22, 2020, a "Notice of Suspension" was issued to suspend the assignment of inspectors for your federal slaughter activities at TN Slaughter House, Inc., Est. M46969. This action was based on your establishment's failure to handle livestock humanely according to 9 CFR Part 313. Specifically, on May 21, 2020, at approximately 3:00 PM CDT, the CSI observed a steer being loaded into the knock box at your establishment. Using an inline captive bolt stunning device, your plant employee administered the first stunning attempt to the animal's forehead wherein the animal remained standing and consciously breathing. A second stun attempt was immediately administered to the animal's forehead using a .22 caliber revolver back up stunning device wherein the animal remained standing with noticeable eye tracking movements thereafter. Your plant employee immediately administered a third stun to the animal's forehead, again using the .22 caliber pistol, which rendered the animal insensible and it remained so thereafter. The knock box was rejected and tagged with USDA Reject tag number B28164810. Plant Manager Bob Thrash was immediately notified of the regulatory control action. Your establishment is currently not operating under a Robust Systematic Approach Humane Handling Program.

On May 26, 2020, you submitted your first response with written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Jackson District Office analyzed your response and advised you that the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures were not adequate. Specifically, you were informed that you should provide the specific root cause of the humane handling event to prevent future reoccurrences, provide verifiable training logs for your employees and specific training materials that your employees will be required to complete, provide specific details on how your employees will be trained, provide clarification and an explanation of the intended use of the head restraint equipment and how it will minimize movement of the animal, provide the monitoring procedure of each stun and what will be observed, and the use of a captive bolt and/or firearm.

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On May 31, 2020, you submitted your second response with written corrective actions and preventive measures to meet the requirements of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act. The Jackson District Office analyzed your response and determined that the response adequately addressed the identified issues. Specifically, you stated that a key root cause is a combination of factors highlighted by the sudden movement of the cow's head at a critical moment in the stun process; you stated that your establishment has no indication that any stun device failed; you stated that you will investigate and test a .22 Win Mag with 40 grains, semi-jacked high velocity soft point shell as a potential replacement back-up ammunition for the .22 caliber pistol at the shell has a rated velocity of 1,875 feet per second (FPS); you stated that you determined that the recommended back-up weapon ammunition does not operate with current weapons on site and that you will continue to use a 40 grain .22 LR Copper Plated Round Nose cartridge with a 1,235 FPS; you provided the description of the head restraint device which stated that the bottom of the head restraint does not move and an additional head cradle was added to the outside of the head restraint to inhibit side to side movement (you stated this head cradle has not been tested for effectiveness); you stated that the top of the head restraint is manually levered down when the animal moves its head through the opening and additional sheet metal was added at the front of the stun box to block the animal's view and cause the animal to raise its head; you stated that your company's policy, "Monitoring Employee", moving forward is that there will be an observer for all stuns; you stated this observer will have the additional responsibility of manually lowering the head restraint bar into place and that this ensures that the observer will have a close observation post to see the animal and other conditions leading up to the actual stun; you stated that a Beef Slaughter Stun Conditions Log has been developed to be filled out by the observer; you stated that the purpose of the observer is to systematically observe stun conditions, to know what "normal" is, identify system issues so that improvements can be made, and to document any system failures; you stated that it is expected that the Stun Conditions Log will be modified and improved once it can be field tested; you stated that your Owners have reviewed and approved revised training materials; you stated that initial stunning training materials consisted only of pictures of stun placement, signs of consciousness, and signs of unconsciousness and that your stunning training materials have been expanded; you stated that review of training materials for stunning will be reviewed with associates prior to their return to work; you stated that you have added a question to your Beef Slaughter Log to determine the percentage of animals balking at the entry to the stun box; you stated that you have added a question to your Beef Slaughter Log to quantify the typical behavior cows exhibit when in the slaughter box prior to stun; you provided training materials for your employees which included trainings on Animal Welfare and Downers, Determining Age of Cattle, Specified Risk Materials, Captive Bolt Stunning and Religious Slaughter, and stun landmark charts; you provided signatures of your employees that received the trainings; you stated that all your employees received overall Animal Welfare training on December 29, 2019; and you provided your Humane Handling of Livestock procedure.

On June 2, 2020, at 8:00 AM CDT, the Deputy District Manager telephoned you and verbally notified you that the corrective actions and preventive measures you proffered were adequate to meet the requirements to place TN Slaughter House, Inc., Est. M46969, under a "Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance." This letter formally informs you of this action.

A copy of the FSIS Verification Plan (VP) will be provided 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 and preventive measures stated in your May 26 and May 31, 2020, responses and that these revisions and corrective actions and preventive measures are effective in ensuring future regulatory compliance. The FSIS Verification Plan identifies your corrective actions, the regulatory requirement(s),

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and the PHIS Task under which FSIS officials will verify the implementation and effectiveness of your proffered action plan.

Please be further advise 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. Agency personnel will begin immediate verification of your corrective actions and preventive measures.

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. In these situations, FSIS personnel will take regulatory control of product or other appropriate action.

Please be advised that as a federally inspected establishment, you are expected to comply with the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act, and all applicable regulations and other requirements concerning the preparation, sale, and transportation of meat products. Failure to comply with these requirements or to effectively implement the measures addressed in your responses, dated May 26 and May 31, 2020, could result in the immediate suspension of inspection at your establishment or other appropriate action(s).

If you have any questions about this action, please contact the Jackson District Office at (601) 965-4312.

Sincerely,

DONALD FICKEY
Digitally signed by
DONALD FICKEY
Date: 2020.06.02
08:55:29 -05'00' /FOR
Dr. Larry Davis
District Manager
Jackson District Office