

Livestock Humane Handling Verification Task Job Aid

Instructions: Review this Job Aid and policy documents, regulations, and inspection methodologies with a mentor.

Acronyms/Definitions

- Humane Handling – Handling and slaughter practices that cause a minimum of excitement, pain, injury, or discomfort to livestock.
- Egregious Inhumane Treatment – An act or condition that results in severe harm to animals ([FSIS Directive 6900.2](#), Ch. I., Sec. V., B.).
- Non-Ambulatory Disabled (NAD) Livestock – Livestock that cannot rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk, including, but not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column, or metabolic conditions.
- HATS – Humane Handling Activities Tracking System
- Very Small Establishments – Establishments with fewer than 10 employees or annual sales of less than \$2.5 million.

Task Overview

- IPP verify compliance with the humane handling regulations ([9 CFR Part 313](#)) in conjunction with the 9 HATS categories, ensuring that livestock are handled and slaughtered in a humane manner.
- IPP are to perform the Livestock Humane Handling Verification task once per slaughter shift that animals are slaughtered, or when animals are on site, even if slaughter is not being conducted.

Basic Procedure

- Schedule a Livestock Humane Handling Verification task.
- Record the time spent verifying humane handling in the HATS categories in quarter-hour increments.
- On each occurrence of ante-mortem inspection, make verification observations for HATS Category IV – “Ante-Mortem Inspection” and document the time spent on verification.
 - **Note:** It is expected that there will be an entry of at least one-quarter hour in HATS Category IV - “Ante-mortem Inspection,” for every slaughter shift ([FSIS Directive 6900.2](#), Ch. IV., Sec. V.).
- In addition to the daily verification of HATS Category IV, verify one or more other HATS categories during each slaughter shift. Over time, routinely verify all HATS categories ([FSIS Directive 6900.2](#), Ch. IV., Sec. III.).
 - Category I – Verify the establishment adapts its facilities and handling practices to **inclement weather**. [9 CFR 313.1](#) and [313.2](#)
 - Category II – Verify humane handling and facilities during **truck unloading** activities. 9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2
 - Category III – Verify **water** is accessible to livestock in holding pens, and **feed available** to animals held longer than 24 hours. 9 CFR 313.2

- Category IV – Verify facilities and humane handling procedures during **ante-mortem inspection**. 9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2
- Category V – Verify establishment handles U.S. **Suspect and disabled** livestock humanely. 9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2
- Category VI – Verify the establishment's procedures for humanely and effectively moving livestock without excessive **prodding** or the use of sharp objects after ante-mortem inspection has occurred. 9 CFR 313.2
- Category VII – Verify establishments provide adequate footing to prevent **slips and falls** as livestock are moved through facilities. 9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2
- Category VIII – Verify establishment's **stunning** procedures are appropriately and effectively administered to produce unconsciousness in the animal before the animal is shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or stuck. [9 CFR 313.5](#), [313.15](#), [313.16](#), and [313.30](#)
- Category IX – Verify that animals do not regain **consciousness** after stunning and throughout shackling, throwing, casting, hoisting, sticking and bleeding of the animal. 9 CFR 313.5, 313.15, 313.16, and 313.30
- For establishments with a robust systematic approach to animal handling, IPP perform additional activities and record under the HATS procedures ([FSIS Directive 6900.2](#), Ch. IV., Sec. II., F.).
- When IPP observe noncompliance without injury to animals or with injury that is non-egregious ([FSIS Directive 6900.2](#), Ch. V., Sec. I. & II.):
 - If necessary, take a regulatory control action to prevent injuries from occurring.
 - Notify establishment management of the noncompliance.
 - Document noncompliance citing all relevant regulations (specify which HATS category was being performed in Block 10 of the NR).
 - Verify establishment corrective actions.
- When IPP observe egregious inhumane slaughter or handling noncompliance ([FSIS Directive 6900.2](#), Ch. V., Sec. III.):
 - Immediately stop the inhumane slaughter or handling of livestock with an appropriate regulatory control action.
 - The IIC is to notify establishment management that they will correlate with SPHV/FLS/District Office/DVMS to discuss the situation.
 - Document noncompliance citing all relevant regulations (specify which HATS category was being performed in Block 10 of the NR).
 - Follow guidance from the District Office regarding enforcement action.
- Document findings and complete the task in PHIS.

Discussion Points

- Discuss the actions IPP take in response to a non-egregious noncompliance vs. an egregious noncompliance.

Knowledge Check

- If IPP observe egregious inhumane slaughter or handling, what is the **first** thing they do to prevent the inhumane handling or slaughter from continuing?

Resources

- [FSIS Directive 6900.2](#) – *Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock*
- IM Workbook – Humane Handling Verification for Livestock and Good Commercial Practices for Poultry