

Livestock Post-Mortem Job Aid

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

Acronyms/Definitions

- Post-Mortem (PM) Inspection – The inspection of carcasses and parts after slaughter to ensure they are safe, wholesome, and not adulterated.
- PHV – Public Health Veterinarian
- Restricted Product – Any meat or meat food product that has been inspected and passed but cannot be released for human consumption because it has a disease or condition that might be transmitted to humans. It has to be subjected to a required treatment (e.g., cooking) before being released.
- Localized – Not general; restricted to a limited region or to one or more spots.
- Generalized – Not definitely limited; affecting the entire carcass or body.

Task Overview

- IPP perform livestock PM inspection to ensure that carcasses and parts that enter commerce are wholesome and not adulterated. Carcasses or parts that are unwholesome or adulterated are unfit for human food and cannot enter commerce.
- Livestock PM inspection regulations are found in [9 CFR 310](#).
 - Additional PM regulations: [9 CFR 311](#), [314](#), and [315](#).
- The establishment's responsibilities related to PM inspection:
 - Prepare carcasses for PM inspection using sanitary procedures.
 - Present carcasses and parts for inspection in a specified manner (called "presentation").
 - Provide appropriate inspection stations that meet the regulatory requirements.

Note: See [FSIS Directive 6600.1](#) for instructions on ante-mortem and PM inspection in establishments operating under the New Swine Inspection System (NSIS).

Basic Procedure

- Examine livestock carcasses at the following steps (or stations) of the PM inspection process (no step in the inspection process may be omitted; [FSIS Directive 6100.2](#), Ch. II., Sec. I.):
 - Head inspection
 - Viscera inspection
 - Carcass inspection
- Use organoleptic methods to detect diseases, abnormalities, and contamination of carcasses and parts. These methods include:
 - Sight – observing a disease lesion (e.g., abscess, tumor, injection site lesion)
 - Feel – palpating (e.g., abnormal lump in tissues)
 - Smell – smelling (e.g., the urine odor of uremia)

Note: See [FSIS Directive 6100.2](#) for livestock PM inspection procedures for species applicable to assignment. Additional resources:

- [Cattle Post-Mortem Inspection Procedures](#)
- [Swine Post-Mortem Inspection Procedures](#)
- [Lamb/Sheep/Goat Post-Mortem Inspection Procedures](#)
- In general, when IPP observe abnormalities or diseases during PM inspection:
 - If the disease or condition of the head, organ, or carcass is **localized**, have the establishment trim the affected tissues or condemn the individual part.
 - If the disease or condition is **generalized** and affects the majority of the head, organ, or carcass, retain the carcass and parts for veterinary disposition.
 - If IPP have questions regarding disease conditions, abnormalities, or the appropriate disposition of carcasses or parts, retain the carcass and parts for veterinary disposition.
- General conditions or lesions that warrant retention of carcasses and their parts for the PHV include ([FSIS Directive 6100.2](#), Ch. II., Sec. IV.):
 - Carcasses of animals designated as U.S. Suspects at ante-mortem inspection.
 - Carcasses of animals that contain lesions consistent with tuberculosis (i.e., granulomatous lesions).
 - Carcasses that display disease conditions (or other signs) or herd history that warrant residue testing (e.g., acute or subacute disease, pyemia/septicemia, pneumonia, injection site lesions, etc.).
 - Carcasses that display signs of disease conditions at PM examination that could reasonably result in condemnation (e.g., neoplasia, pyemia/septicemia, icterus, etc.) or restriction (e.g., tuberculosis, cysticercosis, caseous lymphadenitis, other parasites, sexual odor of swine, eosinophilic myositis).

Note: IPP are to retain carcass and immediately report findings to PHV if they observe signs that may indicate a Foreign Animal Disease or Reportable Condition (conditions such as hemorrhagic septicemia or suspicious or unusual PM findings that do not fit the typical conditions) ([FSIS Directive 6000.1](#), Sec. IV.).

- Possible outcomes of the PM inspection of livestock carcasses and parts:
 1. **U.S. Inspected and Passed** – eligible to receive the marks of inspection;
 2. **U.S. Retained** – retained for veterinary disposition; or
 3. **U.S. Condemned** – not eligible to receive the marks of inspection and cannot enter commerce.
 - **Note:** In livestock, the FSIS veterinarian determines if a livestock carcass is condemned.
- If contamination occurs (e.g., fecal material, urine, ingesta, bile, dirt, hair, and foreign matter, etc.), verify that the establishment removes the contamination in a sanitary manner ([9 CFR 310.18\(a\)](#)).
- PHVs and IICs are to reduce the line speed to ensure that IPP can perform a thorough PM inspection when necessary ([FSIS Directive 6100.2](#), Ch. IX.). Document results of PM inspection in PHIS.
 - [Enter the livestock slaughter data](#) on a per shift basis (slaughter establishment, slaughter date, and the shift).
 - Only carcass dispositions made by the PHV are entered in PHIS (carcasses that were railed out for PHV disposition).

- Detailed instructions for entering the PM inspection results are found in the [PHIS User Guide](#).

Discussion Points

- Discuss the importance of performing a careful PM examination and inspection of the carcasses and parts of each animal.

Knowledge Check

- Give examples of conditions or lesions IPP retain for PHV disposition.

Resources

- [FSIS Directive 6100.2](#) – *Post-Mortem Livestock Inspection*
- [FSIS Directive 6240.1](#) – *Inspection, Sampling, and Disposition of Cattle for Tuberculosis (TB)*
- [FSIS Directive 6600.1](#) – *New Swine Slaughter Inspection System: Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Inspection and Verification of Food Safety and Ready-to-Cook Requirements*
- [FSIS Directive 6000.1](#) – *Responsibilities Related to Foreign Animal Diseases and Reportable Conditions*