

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS DIRECTIVE

6100.1
Revision 1

4/16/09

DO NOT IMPLEMENT THIS DIRECTIVE UNTIL: 4/17/09

ANTE-MORTEM LIVESTOCK INSPECTION

I. PURPOSE

The Agency is reissuing this directive to provide new directions to inspection program personnel (IPP) on condemning cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection. This directive provides instructions to all IPP at livestock slaughter establishments to review this Directive (see section VI). The purpose of this directive is to provide instructions to IPP on how to inspect livestock before slaughter (ante-mortem). Additionally, this directive instructs Public Health Veterinarians (PHVs) on making dispositions of livestock ante-mortem and documenting the findings.

II. CANCELLATIONS

FSIS Directive 6100.1, Ante-mortem Livestock Inspection

III. RESERVED

IV. REFERENCES

Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) 21 U.S.C. 603
Regulations 9 CFR 307.2(a), 309, 310, 311, 320.1(b)(1)(iv), and part 500
FSIS Directive 5000.2, Review of Establishment Data by Inspection Personnel
FSIS Directive 6100.2, Post-mortem Livestock Inspection
FSIS Directive 6240.1, Revision 1, Inspection, Sampling, and Disposition of Animals for Tuberculosis
FSIS Directive 6900.1, Humane Handling of Disabled Livestock
FSIS Directive 6900.2, Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock
FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem
FSIS Form 6200-14, Daily Disposition Record
FSIS Form 6200-16, Summary of Ante-mortem Examination

V. BACKGROUND

On March 18, 2009, FSIS published a final rule, "Requirements for the Disposition of Cattle that Become Non-Ambulatory Disabled Following Ante-mortem Inspection," (74 FR 1146, available on the Internet at [http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations & policies/2009 Interim & Final Rules Index/index.asp](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/regulations_and_policies/2009_Interim_and_Final_Rules_Index/index.asp)). See Attachment 1 for the regulations pertaining to the disposition of cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection. The final rule requires that all non-ambulatory disabled cattle, including those that have passed ante-mortem inspection, be condemned and properly disposed of and that establishment personnel notify FSIS IPP when cattle become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection.

The final rule on non-ambulatory disabled cattle did not modify 9 CFR 309.13. Under the final rule, all non-ambulatory disabled cattle that are offered for slaughter, including non-ambulatory veal calves, must be condemned and disposed of in accordance with 9 CFR 309.13. Section 309.13 of 9 CFR applies after livestock, including veal calves, have been condemned. 9 CFR 309.13(b) provides that veal calves that are unable to rise from a recumbent position and walk because they are tired or cold, before they are condemned, may be set apart and held for treatment but only under appropriate FSIS supervision.

Under the FMIA, IPP perform an examination and inspect all livestock before slaughter to determine whether the animals are fit for slaughter for human food. There are some animal health conditions that can only be assessed when the livestock are alive. Thus, if an establishment does not present animals for ante-mortem inspection in accordance with 21 U.S.C. 603 and 9 CFR 309.1, IPP [the PHV, Consumer Safety Inspector (CSI), or Food Inspector (FI)] conducting post-mortem inspection are not able to determine that carcasses are not adulterated and, therefore, cannot permit the carcasses to be marked as "inspected and passed."

FSIS will continue to permit custom slaughter operators to slaughter for human food cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after they are delivered to a custom operation if the custom operator does not observe any other condition that would render the animal unfit for human food.

VI. REVIEWING THIS ANTE-MORTEM LIVESTOCK INSPECTION DIRECTIVE

The IICs at all establishments that slaughter livestock are to provide up to 1 hour of official time during the established tour of duty to each FSIS employee that performs ante-mortem duties at the establishment to review FSIS Directive 6100.1, Revision 1, Ante-mortem Livestock Inspection. IICs are to give IPP that perform ante-mortem duties an opportunity to review this directive as soon after issuance as practical. Alternatively, the IIC may conduct a work unit meeting with inspection personnel that perform ante-mortem duties to discuss this directive. Once all FSIS employees at the establishment complete the review, the IIC is to document on a memo a list of the names of all the FSIS employees that reviewed the directive and the date that the review is complete.

VII. VERIFYING AN ESTABLISHMENT'S VOLUNTARY SEGREGATION PROCEDURES BEFORE ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION FOR SWINE AND SHEEP

A. When an establishment is slaughtering only market classes of swine or sheep (i.e., market hogs and lambs) and voluntarily segregates animals to facilitate its scheduling of animals for slaughter (i.e., segregating those animals showing signs of abnormalities or diseases from healthy animals), IPP (the PHV, CSI, or FI) are to verify that:

1. market classes of swine or sheep represent the type of livestock slaughtered in the greatest number at the establishment;

NOTE: FSIS does not permit voluntary segregation, as described in this directive, of any class of cattle before FSIS performs ante-mortem inspection. However, to facilitate humane handling, an establishment may move any livestock to the U.S. Suspect pen before the performance of ante-mortem inspection by IPP.

2. animals, except market swine, do not arrive under any Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Veterinary Services (VS) permit or certificate. Market swine arriving under VS-17-30 (Report of Animals, Poultry, or Eggs Offered for Importation) and 17-33 (Animals Imported for Immediate Slaughter) are eligible for segregation under documented plant segregation procedures;

3. the establishment documents its segregation procedures in its HACCP plan or a prerequisite program;

4. the documents on the prerequisite program, and the records related to the prerequisite program, are available to off-line IPP upon request (see FSIS Directive 5000.2, Review of Establishment Data by Inspection Personnel); and

5. the establishment presents all animals to IPP for inspecting before slaughter.

B. IPP inspecting swine and sheep ante-mortem are to:

1. verify that the segregation procedures are only for market classes of swine and sheep;

2. examine all animals found normal by the establishment while the animals are "at rest" (9 CFR 309.1(a));

3. select 5 to 10 percent of all animals that the establishment presents for ante-mortem inspection from several lots and observe in motion;

4. instruct the establishment to move abnormal animals that the PHV may condemn under 9 CFR part 311 to the designated "U.S. Suspect" pen (9 CFR 307.2(a)) for final disposition; and

5. randomly observe establishment personnel performing segregation procedures (i.e., segregating those animals showing signs of abnormalities or diseases from healthy animals) at least once per month.

C. If an establishment does not have documented segregation procedures or fails to implement its segregation procedures properly, the PHV is to instruct IPP not to consider the establishment's segregation program and to follow the instructions in Section VIII.

NOTE: If the establishment sorts livestock for classes other than market swine and sheep (such as cattle) and moves the livestock for inspection by IPP to the designated "U.S. Suspect" pen for final disposition, then the PHV is to carefully examine and inspect all livestock in the "U.S. Suspect" pen (9 CFR 309.2(a) and (n)).

VIII. ANTE-MORTEM LIVESTOCK INSPECTION

A. Steps IPP Follow for Inspecting Livestock Ante-mortem

1. When IPP (i.e., PHV, CSI, or FI) perform ante-mortem inspection, they are to follow the directions in FSIS Directive 6900.1, Humane Handling of Disabled Livestock and 6900.2, Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock, for how to verify that the establishment is meeting humane handling requirements. All animals that are on the premises of the establishment, on vehicles that are on the premises, or animals being handled in connection with slaughter (e.g., livestock on trucks being staged for slaughter) are to be handled humanely. Establishment employees are to handle these animals in accordance with the requirements for the humane handling of livestock (9 CFR 313.2).

2. IPP are to perform ante-mortem inspection on the day of slaughter by observing **all** livestock (except at establishments that have voluntary segregation procedures described in section VI):

a. **at rest;**

b. **in motion.** IPP are to observe livestock from **both** sides when the slaughter class (e.g., cows and bulls) or condition of the animals (e.g., diseased, distressed) at the slaughter establishment supports observing from both sides in order to determine whether they are fit to slaughter for human consumption. At establishments where IPP other than PHVs perform ante-mortem inspection, the PHV is to correlate with the IPP on which animals the IPP are to observe from both sides.

3. When performing ante-mortem inspection, IPP are to observe:

a. the overall condition of each animal, including the head, with attention to the eyes, the legs, and the body of the animal;

b. the degree of alertness, mobility, and breathing; and

c. whether there are any unusual swellings or any other abnormalities.

4. IPP are to pass for slaughter livestock that do not show signs of diseases or abnormalities and that are fit to slaughter for human consumption.

5. When IPP find animals showing signs of abnormalities or diseases on ante-mortem inspection, IPP are to direct the establishment to set all affected animals apart into separate pens (i.e., a suspect pen) for further examination by the PHV (9 CFR 309.2(n)).

6. Non-ambulatory disabled cattle are not eligible for slaughter. IPP (non-PHVs) are to notify the PHV if non-ambulatory, disabled cattle are offered for slaughter. If non-ambulatory disabled cattle are offered for slaughter in an official establishment where the PHV is not located on premises, IPP are to:

a. identify and secure the animal. To execute the holding of an animal and to restrict the animals movement, IPP are to apply an FSIS Form 6502-1, "U.S. Rejected - U.S. Retained" tag (in this directive referred to as "U.S. Retained" tag) to the pen containing the affected animal; and

b. promptly notify the PHV assigned to that establishment.

NOTE: Alternatively, the establishment may elect to condemn and humanely destroy the non-ambulatory disabled cattle before the PHV inspects and makes a disposition.

7. PHVs are to conduct ante-mortem inspection on all non-ambulatory disabled cattle, or other livestock, offered for slaughter.

NOTE: Non-ambulatory disabled livestock are livestock that cannot rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk. Non-ambulatory livestock may include, but are not limited to, those animals with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column, or metabolic conditions (9 CFR 309.2(b)).

8. The IIC is to contact the Policy Development Division (PDD), through supervisory channels, if he or she has not received a slaughter permit when an establishment presents for ante-mortem inspection animals used in a research investigation involving an experimental biological product, drug, or chemical (9 CFR 309.17). The PDD issues the slaughter permit to the IIC, DO, and the researcher based on information provided by the researcher.

9. If an establishment fails to present animals for ante-mortem inspection (21 U.S.C. 603 and 9 CFR 309.1), the off-line IPP are to:

a. retain the animals. The PHV is to condemn the animals;

b. notify the IIC immediately; and

c. issue a noncompliance record (NR) under the 03J01/2 procedure code.

B. Suspect Livestock

1. PHVs are to examine and take the temperature, as necessary, of abnormal or diseased livestock including those set apart by the establishment or IPP.

2. PHVs are to designate as “U.S. Suspect,” by directing that a serially numbered “U.S. Suspect” tag (9 CFR 309.18(a)) be applied to livestock (9 CFR 307.2):

NOTE: PHVs do not have to apply the “U.S. Suspect” tag but are to observe that the “U.S. Suspect” tag is applied by an establishment employee.

a. having any disease condition that may cause the PHV to condemn the carcass when inspected post-mortem; and

b. presented as non-ambulatory disabled livestock, **except** cattle. PHVs are to condemn non-ambulatory disabled cattle (see VIII. D.).

NOTE: When an establishment offers for slaughter recumbent livestock for ante-mortem inspection, the establishment may help an animal that is capable of rising by providing the animal support (e.g., providing a steadying hand). Such support may not be by mechanical means, nor is the establishment permitted to lift the animal in any way. Also, once the animal has risen, it is to ambulate without assistance, so that the PHV can observe it in motion. The establishment must treat the animal humanely when attempting to have it rise or ambulate. FSIS does not consider forcing an animal to stand or ambulate by kicking or prodding (e.g., electrical prodding) to be humane.

3. Under the following circumstances PHVs do not need to apply a serially numbered “U.S. Suspect” tag:

a. cattle that are identified, segregated, and slaughtered as “U.S. Suspect” affected with ocular squamous cell carcinoma (epithelioma of the eye), actinobacillosis, or actinomycosis, readily detected on post-mortem inspection (9 CFR 309.18(a)). The readily detected lesions along with FSIS Form 6150-1 identify the animals as being handled as U.S. Suspects; and

b. Livestock that are known to have reacted to the tuberculin test shall be identified as U.S. Suspects (9 CFR 309.2(d))(see FSIS Directive 6240.1) and bear an official “USDA Reactor” or similar State reactor tag (9 CFR 309.2(d)).

4. PHVs are to verify that the establishment identifies any “U.S. Suspect” swine with a tattoo if they are to be mechanically-dehaired. The use of the tattoo is to maintain the identity of the swine as “U.S. Suspect” through the dehairing process (9 CFR 309.18(b)).

5. See section IX for documenting ante-mortem “U.S. Suspect” findings.

C. PHV Disposition of Cattle That Become Non-ambulatory Disabled After Ante-mortem Inspection

1. When notified by the establishment of cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection, PHVs are to condemn the cattle (9 CFR 309.3(e)); and

2. PHVs are to tag the cattle they have condemned as “U.S. Condemned” (9 CFR 309.3(e)).

D. Condemned Livestock

1. In accordance with 9 CFR 309.3(a) – (e), PHVs are to identify as “U.S. Condemned” by directing that a serially numbered metal “U.S. Condemned” ear tag (9 CFR 309.18(c)) be applied to all animals that are condemned on ante-mortem inspection (9 CFR 309.3(a) – (e)):

NOTE: PHVs do not have to apply the “U.S. Condemned” tag but are to observe that the “U.S. Condemned” tag is applied by an establishment employee.

a. livestock that are dead or in a dying condition when offered for slaughter on the premises of the official establishment;

NOTE: Non-PHVs may identify and tag dead animals as “U.S. Condemned.” Only PHVs may condemn live animals.

b. livestock that are plainly showing on ante-mortem inspection any disease or condition that, under 9 CFR part 311, would cause the PHV to condemn the carcass when inspecting post-mortem;

c. any swine having a temperature of 106°F or higher, and any cattle, sheep, goats, horses, mules, or other equines having a temperature of 105°F or higher;

NOTE: If there is doubt as to the cause of the high temperature, an establishment may hold an animal for further observation, at the discretion of, and under the supervision of, IPP. The PHV is to re-examine the animal, including taking the temperature when the establishment again offers an animal for ante-mortem inspection. If the temperature is still 106° F or above for swine or 105° F or above for other livestock, the PHV is to condemn the animal. Animals may have high temperatures because of a bacterial infection. Animals may also have increased temperatures for reasons other than disease. For example, in the summer, animals may develop heat stress from elevated environmental temperatures.

d. all animals in a comatose or semicomatose condition;

e. all non-ambulatory disabled cattle that are offered for slaughter; and

f. all animals that have any other condition that would preclude the release of the animal for slaughter, including all livestock exhibiting clinical signs of central nervous system disorders. Clinical signs of nervous system disorders on ante-mortem inspection include, but are not limited to, the following: excitement or depression; deviation or rotation of the head; drooping of the lips, eyelids, cheeks, and

ears; convulsions and tremors; paralysis; sudden onset of fainting; head pressing; aimless walking; ataxia; and blindness. Other diseases may mimic nervous system disorders. For example, lameness may be difficult to differentiate from ataxia or paresis, and shivering from the cold may be difficult to differentiate from tremors. IPP are to retain any animal exhibiting signs of nervous system disorders for veterinary disposition (9 CFR 309.4(a)).

2. If an establishment requests to hold livestock, including veal calves that cannot rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk because they are tired or cold, for treatment or to treat the livestock set apart (9 CFR 309.13(b)), the PHV is to:

a. verify that the establishment maintains the identity of the animals and holds the animals in an area that bears the documented identification of the animals, or that the establishment has received permission from the appropriate local, State, or Federal livestock sanitary official having jurisdiction to move the animals off premises;

NOTE: For example, if the establishment presented a market steer for slaughter, and the animal suffered an injury after passing ante-mortem inspection (e.g., the market steer broke its leg and became non-ambulatory disabled), then in this example the market steer is condemned. Also, the establishment may not divert and slaughter the market steer having been presented for ante-mortem inspection under custom exempt. The establishment may still set apart and treat the market steer.

b. change the FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem Form - by crossing out the word “slaughter” and by writing in the words “held for treatment” in the appropriate space for animals that are treated on premises; and

c. just before the animal is shipped, remove the “U.S. Suspect” or “U.S. Condemned” tag on animals that are to be treated off premise.

3. PHVs are to:

a. verify the disposal of condemned livestock by the establishment (9 CFR 314), and that the establishment maintains the required records (9 CFR 320), or that the animals are set apart and held for further observation or treatment under supervision of a FSIS program employee; and

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the PHV to verify that an animal that is identified as “U.S. Condemned” is either disposed of properly or held for further observation or treatment by the establishment (see 9 CFR 309.13(a)(b)).

b. complete FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem, for each animal identified as “U.S. Condemned” on ante-mortem inspection.

NOTE: IPP may record multiple deads (e.g., DOAs) and the associated serial “U.S. Condemned” tag (Z-tag) numbers on a single FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem.

D. Delayed Slaughter

Low-volume establishments utilize delayed slaughter when slaughtering animals on a day other than on the day of ante-mortem inspection. A low-volume establishment for this purpose is one that slaughters 1-15 animals per day. To conduct delayed slaughter, establishments need approval by the FLS. Delayed slaughter is not permitted for cattle (9 CFR 309.1(a) and 311.27).

Off-line IPP verify that the establishment:

1. only slaughters livestock that have received ante-mortem inspection within the previous 24 hours;
2. does not slaughter livestock designated as "U.S. Suspect" without the presence of IPP; and
3. does not slaughter and chill in one day more animals than were inspected on ante-mortem inspection.

E. Emergency Slaughter

For livestock species other than cattle, if an establishment informs the PHV that it was necessary for it to slaughter an animal because of a serious injury at a time other than normal inspection hours (9 CFR 309.12), then the PHV is to:

1. determine post-mortem whether there is evidence of an injury present that rendered emergency slaughter necessary. PHVs are to condemn the entire carcass if there is no evidence of a condition that provides a valid reason for the emergency slaughter; and
2. assess the condition of the animal that underwent the emergency slaughter and make a disposition determination. PHVs are to condemn the entire carcass if he/she finds evidence of a lesion to indicate sickness or disease or any other condition requiring such disposition (9 CFR 311.27).

NOTE: FSIS does not permit emergency slaughter of cattle. IPP are to check all cattle before slaughter.

IX. DOCUMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT

A. Identification System

IPP are to verify that the establishment has an animal identification system that accurately identifies each animal and establishes that IPP have performed ante-mortem inspection on that animal (9 CFR 307.2(a), 310.2(a)(b), and 320.1(b)(1)). An example is the pen card system.

B. Documentation

1. PHVs are to complete FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem, for each animal identified as a “U.S. Suspect” or “U.S. Condemned” on ante-mortem inspection and file the form in the inspection office. IPP are to retain the form for one year.

2. Complete Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem, by recording the following:

a. Slaughter at Est. No. – Indicate the official establishment number where the animal is to be slaughtered;

b. Condemn or Suspect Tag No. – Write in the tag number and cross out the not applicable “U.S. Condemned” or “U.S. Suspect;”

c. Kind of Animal – Species, breed, or class of animal (e.g., Hereford Bull, Hampshire gilt, and mixed breed ewe);

d. Sex;

e. Tagged For – Name of condition causing animal to be a suspect. Additional information may be included on the back of the form, write “see back of form” on the front when the back is used;

f. Temperature – Actual temperature of the animal (TB reactors and animals the PHV suspects may have an abnormal temperature);

g. Weight – Estimate the animal’s weight in pounds;

h. Remarks – Brief description of ante-mortem findings that may aid post-mortem disposition. Also, record back tags and any other identifying numbers;

i. PHV Signature – A PHV is to sign the form when an animal is condemned;

j. Date – Current date; and

k. Post-mortem Report – Use of the Post-mortem Report section of the form is optional. The observations documented on the form should support the decision to tag the bovine as “U.S. Suspect,” including any re-examinations of cattle. Attach FSIS Form 6150-1 to the associated FSIS Form 6200-14, Daily Disposition Record. Retain FSIS Form 6200-14 and, if attached, FSIS Form 6150-1, for one fiscal year.

3. Additional uses for FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem, include:

a. For a TB reactor, use the reactor tag number instead of the “U.S. Suspect” tag number on line 2;

b. For epithelioma, actinobacillosis, and actinomycosis, include the number of animals in the lot on line 2 and state animals are “untagged”.

NOTE: A separate FSIS Form 6150-1, Identification Tag – Ante-mortem is not necessary for each bovine with epithelioma of the eye, actinobacillosis, or actinomycosis. However, the PHV is to verify that the establishment segregates affected animals into a separate lot and is to record the condition and number of animals on the form. The establishment determines the size of the lot. PHVs are to record the condition (ocular squamous cell carcinoma, actinobacillosis, or actinomycosis) and the number of animals affected with each condition. PHVs are to use a separate form for each group of animals with a separate condition in a lot. When the animals are slaughtered, the PHV is to identify each animal individually with a multi-sectioned “U.S. Rejected – U. S. Retain” tag and record them as suspects on the Daily Disposition Record, FSIS Form 6200-14 (see FSIS Directive 6100.2, Post-mortem Livestock Inspection, Ch. IV. I. B. 2.). Under these circumstances the FSIS Form 6150-1 serves as the means to identify the group of animals with each condition.

c. PHVs are to complete FSIS Form 6150-1 for each “U.S. Condemned” animal, alive or dead. Mark through suspect and record the condemned tag number.

4. The PHV or designee is to record the appropriate ante-mortem information on the Daily Disposition Record, FSIS Form 6200-14, following the directions in FSIS Directive 6100.2, Post-mortem Livestock Inspection, Chapter IV; and

5. The PHV or designee is to complete Form 6200-16, Summary of Ante-mortem Examination, when directed to do so by the FLS. When the PHV has been directed to complete this form, he/she is to do so only on days of slaughter. IPP are to retain this form for one year. Complete the Summary of Ante-mortem Examination, FSIS Form 6200-16, by recording the following:

a. Date of last report of this species. This refers to the last date this species was slaughtered,

b. Establishment number,

c. Today’s date,

d. Name of species inspected (use a separate FSIS Form 6200-16 for each species inspected on this date),

e. Number of animals passed for regular slaughter (does not include suspects),

f. Number of animals that were suspected on the previous day but not slaughtered,

g. Number of animals suspected today (include both tagged and handled as suspects),

- h. Total of lines f and g,
- i. Number of animals that were suspected today and the previous day but later released and not slaughtered as suspects,
- j. Number of animals that died in the pens today and the previous day after being tagged as suspects from today and the previous day,
- k. Number of suspect animals slaughtered on this date,
- l. Total of lines i, j, and k,
- m. Number of suspect animals that are not slaughtered and are being held as suspects from today and the previous day,
- n. Number condemned on ante-mortem plus dead animals (do not include suspects that died in pens – they are reported on line j),
- o. Write in “dead” or cause for condemnation and the number of animals disposed of in that category,
- p. The first condemned tag number and the last condemned tag number used, and
- q. The signature of IPP completing the report.

Refer questions regarding this directive to the Policy Development Division through askFSIS at <http://askfsis.custhelp.com> or by telephone at 1-800-233-3935.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development

PART 309--ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

1. The authority citation for part 309 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 601-695; 7 CFR 2.18, 2.53.

2. Section 309.3(e) is revised to read as follows:

§. 309.3 Dead, dying, disabled, or diseased and similar livestock.

* * * * *

(e) Establishment personnel must notify FSIS inspection personnel when cattle become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection. Non-ambulatory disabled cattle that are offered for slaughter must be condemned and disposed of in accordance with § 309.13.