



Food Safety and  
Inspection Service

December 20, 2021

Office of Field Operations

**ORIGINAL VIA FED EX NEXT DAY AIR –  
DELIVERY CONFIRMATION REQUESTED**

Philadelphia District  
Mellon Independence  
Center,  
701 Market Street Suite  
4100-A  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Mr. Mohammad Rahman, President  
**IQRA Meat Packaging, LLC (EST 901/P-901)**  
56 Railroad Ave  
Stamford, NY 12167

**NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE**

Dear Mr. Rahman,

This letter confirms verbal notification to Mr. Mohammed Rahman, President, at 3:50 pm on December 20, 2021, by Mr. Joseph Schein, Deputy District Manager (DDM), Philadelphia District Office, of our decision to place the Notice of Suspension (NOS), issued to you on December 15, 2021, into abeyance. FSIS is providing you with this Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHIA) based on your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures. The assignment of Inspection Program Personnel (IPP) will resume, pending FSIS verification of the adequacy of your humane handling program in achieving regulatory compliance. FSIS will be verifying your actions to ensure that you effectively implement the proffered corrective actions and preventive measures. This letter provides you with the chronology of events and conclusions, including your responsibilities as a federally inspected establishment.

In response to the suspension, you submitted corrective actions and a humane handling plan on the evening of December 15, 2021. FSIS submitted a Request for Clarification on December 16, 2021, and you responded on December 17, 2021 with an updated Humane Handling Plan including more extensive information as well as some changes from the original plan that was submitted. FSIS submitted a Request for Clarification on December 17, 2021, and that evening and the morning of December 20, 2021, you responded with updated actions. A phone conversation between the District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS) and establishment management took place on this same date, for final clarification(s), and you emailed updated training information.

**Your Corrective and Preventive Measures are, but not limited to:**

1. All employees will be trained in the protocols for handling the animals with a minimum of excitement and in stunning processes. Sources from Temple Grandin, the Meat Institute and HSA will be used. This training includes ensuring that ammunition/cartridges will be stored in a watertight container until needed.
2. A minimum of 2 stunning operators will be always present at the stunning box to be backup stunner/holding backup stunning implement to ensure that it is immediately available
3. The Koch 25 will be the primary stunning implement for hogs, with a .410 as the backup implement, and electric stunner as a third option if needed
4. .410 firearm will be the primary stunning implement for sows weighing 400+ pounds. Ammunition for a second .410 shot will be immediately available, and electric stunning and captive bolt will be immediately available in addition.
5. A security stun will be performed on all swine
6. There will be a 7 working day period of monitoring and training for each on-floor employee
7. A Humane Handling and Slaughter assessment will be filled out weekly
8. Stunning equipment will be serviced and cleaned daily, with documentation in a maintenance log

FSIS inspection personnel have designed a Verification Plan (VP) and will use it to monitor and verify that you have effectively implemented your proposed actions. The VP identifies your corrective actions from your responses submitted to FSIS, the relevant regulatory requirements, the tasks FSIS will use to conduct verification activities, and the time frames that you identified. While these verification activities are targeted to your plant's animal handling, FSIS personnel will continue to ensure all humane handling/stunning regulatory requirements of 9 CFR Part 313 are in regulatory compliance. A copy of the VP is attached as a reference to assist you in understanding Agency verification activities.

As an operator of a federally inspected facility, we expect you to comply with FSIS regulations and to take appropriate corrective action when either the establishment or FSIS identifies regulatory noncompliance. FSIS has the responsibility to initiate regulatory control or other appropriate action if your establishment fails either to operate in accordance with the regulations or to operate under sanitary conditions. A final decision relative to this enforcement action will be determined based on your establishment's ability to execute and comply with your proffered corrective actions and all applicable regulatory requirements. Your establishment's failure to meet the conditions of this abeyance may result in additional regulatory and/or administrative actions in accordance with the Rules of Practice 9 CFR Part 500.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Mr. Joseph Schein, Deputy District Manager (DDM) at [joseph.schein@usda.gov](mailto:joseph.schein@usda.gov) or by phone at (215) 430-6219.

Sincerely,

**JOSEPH  
SCHEIN**

Digitally signed by  
JOSEPH SCHEIN  
Date: 2021.12.20  
15:53:39 -05'00'

Mr. Michael J. Osifat  
Deputy District Manager/Acting District Manager  
Philadelphia District Office

**IQRA Meat Packaging, LLC (Est. 901) Verification Plan  
December 20, 2021**

ESTABLISHMENT ACTION PLAN	9 CFR REGULATION	HUMANE HANDLING VERIFICATION CATEGORY	FREQUENCY
1.All employees will be trained in the protocols for handling the animals with a minimum of excitement and in stunning processes. Sources from Temple Grandin, the Meat Institute and HSA will be used. This training includes ensuring that ammunition/cartridges will be stored in a watertight container until needed. Documentation will be available for IPP review.	313.15 313.16	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	1.Once prior to resumption of slaughter
2.A minimum of 2 stunning operators will be always present at the stunning box to be backup stunner/holding backup stunning implement to ensure that it is immediately available	313.15 313.16	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	2.Each stun, each slaughter day
3.The Koch 25 will be the primary stunning implement for hogs, with a .410 as the backup implement, and electric stunner as a third option if needed	313.15 313.16 313.30	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	3.Each stun, each slaughter day
4. .410 firearm will be the primary stunning implement for sows weighing 400+ pounds. Ammunition for a second .410 shot will be immediately available, and electric stunning and captive bolt will be immediately available in addition.	313.16 313.15	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	4.Each stun, each slaughter day
5.A security stun will be performed on all swine	313.15 313.16	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	5.Each stun, each slaughter day
6.There will be a 7 working day period of monitoring and training for each on-floor employee	313.15 313.16	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	6.Weekly evaluation by IPP to confirm completion by each employee
7.A Humane Handling and Slaughter assessment will be documented weekly and available for IPP review.	313.15 313.16	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	7.Weekly evaluation by IPP

8.Stunning equipment will be serviced and cleaned daily, with documentation in a maintenance log and available for IPP review.	313.15 313.16	Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness.	<b>8.</b> Daily evaluation by IPP
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**\*Inspection Program Personnel will perform humane handling verification every slaughter operation day to verify the adequacy and effectiveness of the establishment’s compliance with the humane handling regulatory requirements of 9 CFR Part 313.**

**\*Inspection Program Personnel will ensure all humane handling/stunning regulatory requirements are complying daily on each slaughter day, regardless of the stunning method.**

**\*Inspection Program Personnel will review all monitoring, verification, and corrective action records to verify procedures are being conducted as prescribed and at the specified frequency.**

**\*Please notify the Frontline Supervisor (FLS) and the District Veterinary Medical Specialist (DVMS) if there is any change in the establishment’s corrective action or preventive measures. The verification plan will then be modified appropriately.**

**CC:**

FSIS - FO/Quarterly Enforcement Report

Mr. Mark Crowe, Director, CID, FSIS, OIEA, Washington, DC

Ms. Geraldine French, EARO, FSIS, OFO, Washington, DC

Mr. Joseph Priore, RD, FSIS, OIEA, Northeast Region

Ms. Valerie Clay, DDM, FSIS, OFO, Philadelphia District Office

Mr. Michael Osifat, DDM, FSIS, OFO, Philadelphia District Office

Mr. Joseph Schein, DDM, FSIS, OFO, Philadelphia District Office

Dr. Paul Cole, FLS (Acting DDM), FSIS, OFO, Philadelphia District



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