



Food Safety and
Inspection Service

March 22, 2022

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. Saber Sassi, Owner
Dillsburg Halal Meat, LLC (EST 47544)
855 Mount Zion Rd
Dillsburg, PA 17019

NOTICE OF SUSPENSION HELD IN ABEYANCE

Dear Mr. Sassi,

This letter confirms verbal notification to Mr. Saber Sassi, Owner, by Mr. Joseph Schein, Deputy District Manager (DDM), Philadelphia District Office, at approximately 1410 hours, on March 22, 2022, of the decision to place the Notice of Suspension (NOS), issued on March 17, 2022, into abeyance.

FSIS is providing you with this Notice of Suspension Held in Abeyance (NOSHIA) based on your proposed corrective actions and preventive measures. FSIS determined that the suspension action will be placed in abeyance and 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.

In response to the NOS, you submitted written corrective actions and preventive measures on March 18, 2022. FSIS requested clarification of your response this same date, to which you submitted further corrective actions on March 21, 2022. FSIS, again, requested clarification to your response. On March 22, 2022, you submitted additional corrective actions.

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

1. The employee was hasty in his work because he was rushing to get done, he regrets his actions and shows remorse, he has accepted all responsibility and is ready to face the consequences. The training will have detailed plan on work ethics, including how to properly conduct humane killing, and a step-by-step plan on how to perform his duties.
2. The employee will be suspended for a period of one week; the date range is from March 17, 2022, through March 27, 2022.

3. Upon return, the employee will be on a probation period of three months and will be monitored by Mr. Saber Sassi 100 % of the time on the slaughter floor. There will be no room for error, a minor error will lead to immediate termination.
4. The employee will be returned to the slaughter floor after being thoroughly trained, individually, and with the rest of the staff. This training will be documented and provided to FSIS upon completion.
5. Group training occurred March 18, 2022; and was completed Monday March 21, 2022.
6. The Food and Safety (b) (6) performed the training and management will monitor the process.
7. The links for the training videos:
 - a) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wcggE3H5vO4>
 - b) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60M90ImG00c>
 - c) https://www.fsis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/mcmedia_file/2021-03/6900.2.pdf
8. A list of authorized Kill Floor staff was provided (Consists of four individuals).
9. Training log was submitted. The training log documents the date(s) of training; the Subjects trained on; the names (printed and signed) and the Trainer(s) name.
10. Management plans to use the Humane Handling Monitoring Log(s) indefinitely.
11. The visual monitoring (of animals) will be conducted and documented each slaughter day on the Humane Handling Monitoring Log.
12. Mr. Saber Sassi will be overseeing the involved employee, and the area which in where the incident occurred each slaughter day (e.g., 100 percent). This will, also, be documented on the Humane Handling Monitoring Log. If Mr. Sassi is otherwise unavailable, or absent from the establishment, (b) (6) is authorized to conduct these duties.
13. Mr. Saber Sassi, and (b) (6) are considered management and can sign off on monitoring document(s) and training affirmation.

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 correctives 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 or by phone at (215) 430-6219.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH SCHEIN

Digitally signed by JOSEPH
SCHEIN
Date: 2022.03.22 16:04:59 -04'00'

Ms. Valerie Clay, Acting District Manager (DDM)
USDA, FSIS, OFO
Philadelphia District Office

**Dillsburg Halal. (EST 47544) Verification Plan
March 22, 2022**

ESTABLISHMENT ACTION PLAN	9 CFR REGULATION	HUMANE HANDLING VERIFICATION CATEGORY	FREQUENCY
<p>1. Employee responsible for the Humane Handling incident to be suspended from work at the EST March 17, 2022, through March 27, 2022. The individual will receive re-training in Humane Handling prior to resuming slaughter duties. Documentation of this training will be available for IPP review.</p>	313.2	Category IV – Handling of animals during antemortem inspection Category VI – Electric Prod/Alternative Object Use	1.Upon implementation March 22, 2022, and each slaughter day through March 27, 2022.
<p>2. Employee responsible for the Humane Handling incident will be on probation for 3 months. The employee will be supervised by Mr. Saber Sassi 100 percent (of the time) while working on the slaughter floor, with a zero tolerance for humane handling error. This will be documented on the Humane Handling Monitoring Log.</p> <p>*(b) (6) has, also, been authorized to conduct these duties should Mr. Saber Sassi otherwise be unavailable.</p>	313.2	Category IV – Handling of animals during antemortem inspection Category VI – Electric Prod/Alternative Object Use	2.Upon implementation March 28, 2022, and each slaughter day, for a minimum of 90 days.
<p>3. Full slaughter floor staff has been retrained in Humane Handling and Islamic methods of handling animals prior to slaughter. A list of trained employees will be maintained by management and available for IPP review. New employees can be added to this list.</p>	313.2	Category IV – Handling of animals during antemortem inspection Category VI – Electric Prod/Alternative Object Use	3.Upon implementation, March 22, 2022, and upon each occurrence.
<p>4. Humane handling of the animals will be monitored by management at each stage of the process each slaughter day and will be documented on the Humane Handling Monitoring Log each slaughter day.</p>	313.2	Category IV – Handling of animals during antemortem inspection Category VI – Electric	4.Upon implementation March 22, 2022, and each slaughter day.

		Prod/Alternative Object Use	
--	--	--------------------------------	--

***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, Acting DM/DDM, FSIS, OFO, Philadelphia District Office

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

(b) (6)

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

(b) (6)

Official Files Establishment Folder – Est. 47544

(b) (6)