

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND FOOD SAFETY

Meat Inspection Service

MONTPELIER, VT

Anson Tebbetts, Secretary



MIS DIRECTIVE

Adopted from FSIS Directive 6090.1

6090.1

10/01/19

FIREARMS SAFETY

This directive provides safety procedures for inspection program personnel (IPP) to follow when firearms are used in official establishments to render animals immediately unconscious. This directive establishes a safe location that provides protection from a ricocheting bullet or bullet fragments as agreed upon by the establishment and the IPP.

II. BACKGROUND

A. As set out in [9 CFR 313.16](#), firearms may be used by non-VAAFAM personnel to produce immediate unconsciousness in the animal by a single shot before it is shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut. As is stated in these regulations, aiming and discharging of firearms is to be directed away from operating areas.

B. VAAFAM is dedicated to providing a safe work environment for IPP.

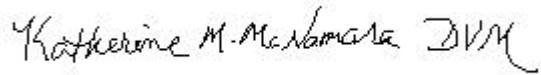
C. VAAFAM has elected to implement the procedures in this directive specifically to remove the inspector from the area when firearms are used to ensure their safety.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Following receipt of this directive, at establishments where establishment employees use firearms to render animals immediately unconscious, the IPP at the establishment are to discuss with the establishment management at the next weekly meeting how IPP will be notified and provided time to move to a safe location before the firearm is discharged and how employees will be notified that it is safe to leave that location.

B. The IIC is to document the meeting in a memorandum of interview (MOI) to be shared with all Meat Inspection employees and the establishment management.

C. If IPP have questions or concerns regarding firearms safety, they are to immediately notify their chain of command of the issue and seek guidance to meet and resolve the concern.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katherine M. McNamara DVM". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'K'.

Katherine M. McNamara, DVM
Head of Service - Meat Inspection Service