

VERMONT AGENCY OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARKETS
FOOD SAFETY CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
Meat Inspection Service
MONTPELIER, VT
Anson Tebbetts, Secretary



MIS DIRECTIVE

Adopted from FSIS Directive 6100.1 Rev. 3

6100.1
Rev. 3

7/21/2020

ANTE-MORTEM LIVESTOCK INSPECTION

I. PURPOSE

This directive provides instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) on how to inspect livestock before slaughter (ante-mortem inspection) and the methods used to verify that livestock offered for slaughter have received ante-mortem inspection. FSIS is reissuing this directive to incorporate the instructions for verifying the handling of non-ambulatory disabled veal calves, removing the requirement that ante-mortem inspection must be performed in holding pens, and updating the disposition instructions for recumbent cattle. Also, FSIS has updated the directive to provide a definition for “promptly” (as it pertains to euthanasia) and additional instructions about entering the Suspect tag in the Public Health Information System (PHIS).

Per 6 V.S.A. § 3305 (8), the State of Vermont adopts Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 3, 9 CFR §§ 300.1 et seq., together with any amendments, supplements, or revisions thereto.

KEY POINTS:

- *Provides procedures for IPP to use in performing ante-mortem inspection of livestock*
- *Provides methodology to IPP for verifying that livestock offered for slaughter have received ante-mortem inspection*
- *Provides instructions to IPP for entering dispositions in PHIS*
- *Clarifies to IPP the disposition requirements for non-ambulatory disabled cattle, including veal calves*

II. CANCELLATIONS

FSIS Directive 6100.1, Rev 2, *Ante-mortem Livestock Inspection*, 7/24/14

III. BACKGROUND

A. As required under the Federal Meat Inspection Act, IPP are to examine and inspect all livestock before slaughter to determine whether the animals are fit for slaughter for human food. 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 (i.e., Public Health Veterinarian (PHV), Consumer Safety Inspector (CSI), or Food Inspector (FI)) that conduct 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.” There are certain animal health conditions that can only be assessed when the livestock are alive.

B. 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 11463](#)). The final rule requires that all non-ambulatory disabled cattle, including non-ambulatory disabled veal calves, that are offered for slaughter (including those that have passed ante-mortem inspection) be condemned and properly disposed of in accordance with 9 CFR 309.13. It also requires establishment personnel to notify

IPP when cattle become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection (9 CFR 309.3 (e)). The regulations pertaining to the disposition of cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after passing ante-mortem inspection are listed in Attachment 1.

C. On July 18, 2016, FSIS published a final rule, "Requirements for the Disposition of Non-Ambulatory Disabled Veal Calves," ([81 FR 46570](#)). The final rule removed a provision that permitted establishments to set apart and hold for treatment veal calves that are unable to rise from a recumbent position and walk because they are tired and cold. The final rule also amended the regulations to require all non-ambulatory disabled cattle to be promptly disposed of after they have been condemned. Additionally, the final rule amended the regulations by removing a provision that requires ante-mortem inspection to be conducted in pens.

D. In addition, FSIS and VAAFM 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 ([74 Federal Register 11463](#)). IPP are to refer to [FSIS Directive 5930.1](#), *Custom Exempt Review Process*, for verification activities concerning custom exempt slaughter and humane handling requirements, including requirements for non-ambulatory cattle.

IV. IPP PERSONAL SAFETY

When IPP conduct routine ante-mortem examination of livestock, personal safety is paramount. IPP are to conduct ante-mortem verification with establishment helpers (9 CFR 307.2 (a)) from a safe and suitable vantage point, taking into consideration the size and temperament of livestock. PHVs are to conduct physical examination, if necessary, of segregated livestock (e.g. potential VT Suspects, VT Condemns) with establishment helpers and suitable controls (e.g. restraining chute).

V. VAAFM VERIFICATION OF LIVESTOCK OFFERED FOR SLAUGHTER

A. IPP performing ante-mortem inspection in New Swine Slaughter Inspection System (NSIS) establishments are to refer to 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*, for modified instructions concerning ante-mortem inspection.

B. IPP are to verify that all livestock that are brought onto official establishment premises are humanely handled. This includes the handling of livestock that have not been unloaded from transport vehicles. In most cases, IPP are to perform ante-mortem inspection once livestock are offered for slaughter using the steps that follow in this section of the directive. However, IPP may perform ante-mortem inspection on livestock that have not been placed in pens (e.g., alleyways) or unloaded from transport vehicles (e.g., injured livestock) (9 CFR 309.1 (b)).

C. IPP are to require that establishments adequately present livestock for ante-mortem inspection on the day of slaughter (9 CFR 307.2(a) and 9 CFR 309.1(a)) and that establishments identify those animals that need ante-mortem inspection to allow IPP to conduct and document that ante-mortem inspection has been performed (e.g., through use of a pen card or drive sheet). This documentation is necessary to facilitate IPP's verification of the number of animals presented for ante-mortem inspection by slaughter class (subclass) and to reconcile that number with the number of animals slaughtered.

NOTE: In rare cases, IPP, in discussion with the supervisor, may provide ante-mortem inspection on a day other than the day of slaughter (see Section XV of this directive).

D. IPP are to request a document (e.g., a pen card or drive sheet) from the establishment that provides the following information (or sufficient space for IPP to record the following information):

1. The date and time ante-mortem inspection was performed;
2. The pen/lot number;
3. The number and slaughter class (subclass) of livestock in the pen/lot that were offered for and passed ante-mortem inspection; and
4. The IPP's signature or initials.

E. If the establishment does not provide the document, then the animals have not been sufficiently offered for slaughter and IPP cannot effectively perform ante-mortem inspection and thus are not able to pass the animals for slaughter (9 CFR 307.2 and 9 CFR 309.1(b)). IPP are to advise the establishment of the reason they are unable to conduct ante-mortem inspection.

VI. IPP PROCEDURES FOR VERIFICATION OF THE NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK OFFERED FOR ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

A. IPP are to periodically verify the accuracy of the number of livestock presented for ante-mortem inspection recorded by the establishment on the pen card or other document.

B. IPP are to perform this verification at a frequency that is determined through discussions by the IIC with the supervisor. The frequency is to be based on the establishment's history of accurately recording the number of livestock on the document (e.g., pen card, drive sheet) that is presented to IPP.

C. IPP are to perform the verification after the establishment has identified and presented livestock for ante-mortem inspection with a pen card or other document.

1. If the count reveals that the number provided by the establishment is accurate, then IPP are to complete ante-mortem inspection.
2. If the number of livestock provided by the establishment is inaccurate, then IPP are to:
 - a. Ask establishment personnel to present a pen card with the correct number or cross-out the incorrect number and write in the correct number;
 - b. Initial the changes on the pen card that were made by the establishment; and
 - c. Complete ante-mortem inspection.
3. If the establishment personnel refuse to make the correction, IPP are to discontinue ante-mortem inspection and are to do the following:
 - a. Retain the livestock by taking a regulatory control action according to 9 CFR 500.2 (a) (3);
 - b. Issue a noncompliance record (NR) to the establishment describing that the establishment refused to provide accurate information for the efficient conducting of ante-mortem inspection and enter the correct number of livestock in the NR; and
 - c. Enter this under "Other Inspection Requirements" and cite 9 CFR 307.2 in the NR.

VII. IPP PROCEDURES FOR IDENTIFYING, CONTROLLING, AND ACCOUNTING FOR LIVESTOCK DURING ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

- A. IPP are to perform ante-mortem inspection, document for animals that pass ante-mortem inspection, and follow the instructions below for identifying, controlling, and accounting for livestock that do not pass ante-mortem inspection.
- B. IPP are to inspect and pass those livestock found to be healthy on ante-mortem inspection.
- C. IPP are to request that establishment personnel segregate, in a humane manner, livestock that need further examination by the PHV from livestock that have passed ante-mortem inspection.
- D. IPP (with consult with the PHV) are to condemn livestock found dead in the pen and tag them as VT Condemned. These livestock are accounted for by entering in to PHIS.
- E. IPP are to verify that the number of livestock in the pens are recorded on the pen card. If livestock are removed from the pen (e.g. dead livestock, livestock segregated for PHV examination), IPP are to:
1. Request that establishment personnel correct the number of livestock written on the pen card by crossing out the number presented and entering the correct total, and
 2. Initial the change.
- F. After ante-mortem inspection is completed, IPP are to record on the pen card or other document provided by the establishment the time that ante-mortem inspection was performed and are to sign or initial the document. Once this is done, ante-mortem inspection is complete, and the livestock may be driven to slaughter.
- G. When a PHV examines segregated livestock, they are to:
1. Examine the livestock and make one of the following dispositions for these segregated livestock:
 - a. Passed for normal slaughter;
 - b. Passed for slaughter but tagged, or handled, as a VT Suspect animal (9 CFR 309.18 (a)). In addition, swine slaughtered in a dehairing operation must also have a tattoo applied when identified as a US Suspect (9 CFR 309.18 (b)); or
 - c. Condemned and tagged as a VT Condemned animal (9 CFR 309.18 (c)); and
 2. Account for the segregated livestock by using:
 - a. A pen card (or other documentation) for those animals passed for normal slaughter; or
 - b. PHIS to account for those that are condemned on antemortem.

VIII. IPP VERIFICATION PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING THAT LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTERED AT AN ESTABLISHMENT HAVE RECEIVED ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

- A. IPP are to verify that only livestock that have passed ante-mortem inspection are moved to slaughter. IPP are to perform this activity at least once per slaughter shift. (The IIC, in consultation with the supervisor, may determine an overall frequency for this verification at the establishment.) IPP are to perform this verification by observing livestock handlers driving livestock from the holding pens to the slaughter area and verify that:

1. The establishment's documentation (e.g., pen card or other document) matches the animals being driven to slaughter; and
2. The documentation has an IPP signature or initial and time that indicates ante-mortem was performed.

B. IPP can conduct this activity as part of the Humane Handling Activities Tracking System (HATS) verification. However, verification of animal handling, over time, is not to be limited to just the ante-mortem inspection location (refer to VT Directive 6900.2, *Humane Handling and Slaughter of Livestock*).

C. IPP are to verify that the number of livestock slaughtered (during a slaughter shift) is no more than the number of livestock that have passed ante-mortem inspection. The postmortem (PM) location for this verification procedure is to be determined by the IIC at the establishment. It may vary from establishment to establishment. IPP are to perform this verification by:

1. Periodically, throughout a slaughter shift, IPP during PM inspection are to tally the number of livestock, for a particular lot, that received ante-mortem inspection using the establishment's documentation (e.g., pen card or other document); and
2. Compare this number with the establishment's total for the number of livestock slaughtered in that lot. The establishment's running total for livestock slaughtered may be recorded by the establishment, for example, on drive sheets (or drive cards) or using automatic counters. (The method will vary among establishments.)

D. During their normal tour of duty, IPP are to verify at least once per week for each shift, that the total number of animals that received and passed ante-mortem inspection are equal to or greater than the total number of animals slaughtered. IPP are to verify these numbers by:

1. Determining the number of livestock that were eligible for slaughter by examining and totaling the number of livestock on verified documentation (e.g., pen cards and other documents) and the completed "Identification Tag Ante-Mortem" forms (FSIS Form 6150-1) for that shift;
2. Comparing this number to the establishment's total number of head slaughtered; and
3. Determining whether a discrepancy exists.

E. If IPP find that there is a discrepancy, they are to discuss with establishment management why the livestock numbers do not agree and determine how to reconcile these figures. IPP are to inquire whether any documentation maintained by the establishment will assist in determining the correct numbers.

F. If IPP determine that livestock were slaughtered without ante-mortem inspection, then IPP are to follow the instructions in section IX. I. for livestock not receiving ante-mortem inspection.

IX. STEPS IPP FOLLOW WHEN CONDUCTING LIVESTOCK ANTE-MORTEM INSPECTION

A. When IPP perform ante-mortem inspection, they are to follow the instructions in VT Directive 6900.2, 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).

B. 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 X):

1. At rest; and
2. 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.

C. When performing ante-mortem inspection (9 CFR Part 309), IPP are to observe:

1. The overall condition of each animal, including the head, with attention to the eyes, the legs, and the body of the animal;
2. The degree of alertness, mobility, and breathing; and
3. Whether there are any unusual swellings or any other abnormalities.

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

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

NOTE: Please refer to [FSIS Directive 9530.1](#) "Importation of Live Canadian Cattle, Sheep, and Goats into the United States (U.S.)" for special measures (e.g., receiving, slaughter, inspection) for live cattle, sheep, and goats from Canada.

F. Non-ambulatory disabled cattle are not eligible for slaughter. IPP (non-PHV) 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:

1. Identify and secure the animal. To execute the holding of an animal and to restrict the animal's movement, IPP are to apply an VT Form MI 6567 "VT Retained" tag (in this directive referred to as "VT Retained" tag) to the pen containing the affected animal; and
2. Promptly notify the PHV assigned to that establishment.

G. PHVs are to conduct ante-mortem inspection on all non-ambulatory disabled cattle offered for slaughter, unless the establishment elects to condemn and humanely destroy the non-ambulatory disabled cattle before the PHV inspects and makes a disposition.

NOTE: Non-ambulatory disabled livestock are livestock that cannot rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk. Non-ambulatory disabled 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)).

H. The IIC is to contact the Chief of inspection or Supervisor, 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).

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

1. Retain the animals or carcasses (if slaughtered);
2. Notify the IIC immediately; and
3. Issue an NR under the “Slaughter HACCP” verification task.

J. Use of Secondary Entrances

1. IPP are to determine whether the establishment is using secondary or alternative entrances (e.g. side doors) when bringing livestock into the stunning area that are not typical of the normal flow (e.g. alleyways) of livestock to the stunning area. Also, IPP are to determine whether the establishment is using these entrances under conditions that meet the relevant statutory and regulatory requirements, such as:
 - a. Treating livestock humanely; or
 - b. Not slaughtering uninspected livestock or non-ambulatory disabled cattle or dead livestock.
2. If IPP determine that the establishment is not using secondary or alternative entrances, IPP are to discuss this with establishment management and document this on the weekly meeting memorandum of interview (MOI).
3. If IPP determine that the establishment is using secondary or alternative entrances, IPP are to:
 - a. Discuss this use with establishment management and document, on the weekly meeting MOI, that the establishment is using secondary or alternative entrances; and
 - b. Refer to VT Directive 6900.2 for instructions for IPP verification activities of the establishment’s use of secondary or alternative entrances. This verification is part of HATS Category VIII – Stunning Effectiveness. In performing this verification, assess the conditions under which animals are being brought for stunning (e.g., walking under their own power, or are they being dragged (which is egregious noncompliance)). IPP need to assess how the secondary (alternative) entrances are being used, and whether there is compliance with Agency requirements. IPP are to document their findings and take enforcement actions if necessary.

X. 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., butcher hogs and lambs) and voluntarily segregates animals (i.e., segregating those animals showing signs of abnormalities or diseases from healthy animals), IPP 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 of any slaughter class of cattle, as described in this directive. 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. However, 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 hazard analysis critical control point (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 (refer to VT Directive 5000.2 *Review of Establishment Testing Data by Inspection Program Personnel*); and
5. The establishment presents all animals to IPP for inspection before slaughter.

B. IPP inspecting swine and sheep during 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 to the designated “VT Suspect” pen (9 CFR 307.2(a)) for final disposition by the PHV. A PHV may decide to condemn an animal under 9 CFR part 311; and
5. Observe establishment personnel performing segregation procedures (e.g., 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 as prescribed, the PHV is to instruct IPP not to consider the establishment’s segregation program and to follow the instructions in Section IX.

D. 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 “VT Suspect” pen for final disposition, the PHV is to carefully examine and inspect all livestock in the “VT Suspect” pen (9 CFR 309.2(a) and(n)).

XI. PROCEDURES RELATED TO SUSPECT LIVESTOCK

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

B. PHVs are to designate livestock as “VT Suspect” by applying or directing establishment employees to attach (9 CFR 307.2 (a)) a serially numbered “VT Suspect” tag (9 CFR 309.18(a)) to livestock that:

1. Have any disease or condition that may cause the PHV to condemn the carcass or part of a carcass when inspected post-mortem (9 CFR 309.2 (a)); and
2. Are presented as non-ambulatory disabled livestock **except** cattle. PHVs are to condemn non-ambulatory disabled cattle, including calves (9 CFR 309.3(e)).

C. PHVs do not have to personally apply the “VT Suspect” tag but are to observe that the “VT Suspect” tag is applied by an establishment employee.

D. When an establishment offers 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 steady 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.

E. Under the following circumstances PHVs do not need to apply a serially numbered “VT Suspect” tag to:

1. Cattle that are identified, segregated, and slaughtered as “VT Suspect” that are affected with (9 CFR 309.18 (a)):
 - a. epithelioma of the eye (ocular squamous cell carcinoma);
 - b. actinobacillosis; or
 - c. actinomycosis.
2. Cattle that are known to have reacted to the tuberculin test are to be identified as U.S. Suspects (9 CFR 309.2(d))(see [FSIS Directive 6240.1, Inspection, Sampling, and Disposition of Animals for Tuberculosis](#)) and bear an official “USDA Reactor” or similar State reactor tag (9 CFR 309.2(d)).
3. Livestock that have lesions that would be readily detected on post-mortem inspection (9 CFR 309.18(a)) are handled as U.S. Suspects and are accompanied by a FSIS Form 6150-1.

F. PHVs are to verify that the establishment identifies any “VT 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 “VT Suspect” through the dehairing process (9 CFR 309.18(b)).

XII. PHV DISPOSITION OF CATTLE THAT BECOME RECUMBENT OR NON-AMBULATORY DISABLED AFTER PASSING ANTE- MORTEM INSPECTION

A. When the PHV is notified by the establishment (or IPP) of cattle that have previously passed ante-mortem inspection that have become recumbent (lying down) or non-ambulatory disabled (9 CFR 309.3 (e)), PHVs are to use sound professional judgement when examining these cattle and determine:

1. If the animal is ambulatory. If so, it may proceed through the slaughter process. Refer to the thought process in the examples below when making determinations; or

EXAMPLES:

- Cattle (that have passed ante-mortem inspection) driven to the restrainer sometimes go down in the restrainer and have difficulty standing up; this may be due to floor conditions, design of restraint systems, or animals unaccustomed to being restrained. PHVs need to closely evaluate such situations to determine if the animals are non-ambulatory disabled or whether the animal would otherwise be ambulatory except that the establishment’s facilities restrict the animal from rising or ambulating.
- Young cattle (steers and heifers), that have passed ante-mortem inspection, if observed by the PHV, injuring themselves due to establishment facility issues (missing grates), that leads to a recumbent animal must be closely evaluated to determine if the animal is non-ambulatory disabled or whether the establishment’s facilities caused an otherwise ambulatory animal to go down.

- Cattle (that have passed ante-mortem inspection) driven to the restrainer that are entrapped must be closely evaluated by the PHV to determine if the animals are non-ambulatory disabled or whether the establishment's facilities or handling practices caused an animal that would otherwise be ambulatory to become entrapped.
2. If the animal is non-ambulatory disabled. If so, PHVs are to condemn non-ambulatory disabled cattle (9 CFR 309.3(e)) and tag the cattle as "VT Condemned" (or to direct the tagging of condemned cattle) and have them promptly disposed of in accordance with 9 CFR 309.13.

NOTE: "Promptly" means within a reasonable time in view of all of the facts and circumstances, including whether the animal is suffering (e.g., injured, dehydrated, or vulnerable to being stepped on by ambulatory cattle), and extenuating circumstances such as weather conditions and emergencies ([80 FR 46570, 46574](#)).

B. The establishment may elect to humanely destroy cattle that become non-ambulatory disabled after the cattle received ante-mortem inspection instead of waiting for a PHV disposition. In this case, the establishment is still required to notify IPP, and the PHV or other IPP are to condemn and tag the dead animal or condemn and direct the tagging of the dead animal.

XIII. PROCEDURES FOR CONDEMNED LIVESTOCK

A. In accordance with 9 CFR 309.3(a) – (e), PHVs are to identify livestock as "VT Condemned" by directing that a serially numbered metal "VT Condemned" ear tag (9 CFR 309.13 (a) and 309.18(c)) be applied to each animal that is condemned on ante-mortem inspection.

B. PHVs do not have to apply the "VT Condemned" tag but are to observe that the "VT Condemned" tag is applied by an establishment employee.

C. Non-PHV's may identify and tag dead animals as "VT Condemned." Only PHVs may condemn live animals.

D. "VT Condemned" tags are placed on:

1. Livestock that are dead or in a dying condition when offered for slaughter on the premises of the official establishment;
2. 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 during post-mortem inspection;
3. Any swine that have a temperature of 106⁰F or higher, and any cattle, sheep, and goats having a temperature of 105⁰F 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 the animal for ante-mortem inspection. If the temperature is still 106⁰F or above for swine or 105⁰F 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.

4. All animals in a comatose or semi-comatose condition;
5. All non-ambulatory disabled cattle, including calves, offered for slaughter.
6. 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)).

E. PHVs are to verify that all cattle determined to be non-ambulatory disabled, including calves, are promptly euthanized and disposed of in accordance with 9 CFR 309.13. If the establishment personnel do not promptly dispose of the condemned cattle, the PHV or CSI is to perform a directed Livestock Humane Handling task in PHIS and document the noncompliance in an NR. PHIS includes the task in the Establishment Task List for all livestock slaughter operations. PHVs are to:

1. Schedule the task on the Task Calendar in PHIS;
2. Record the task outcome in Inspection Results by selecting the verified regulations and checking the appropriate boxes. For the noncompliance, complete the NR; and
3. Record the HATS time spent by category while performing humane verification in quarter hour increments.

NOTE: Establishments are required to provide satisfactory personnel and equipment so that VAAFM can conduct ante-mortem inspection (9 CFR 307.2 (a)). FSIS expects these personnel to be prepared to promptly euthanize condemned, non-ambulatory disabled cattle in accordance with 9 CFR 309.3(e) and 9 CFR 309.13.

F. If an establishment requests to hold condemned livestock (excluding non-ambulatory disabled cattle) for treatment, IPP are to:

1. 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 (9 CFR 309.13(d));
2. Change the VT Form MI59 "Daily Disposition" - by writing in the words "held for treatment" in the appropriate space for animals that are treated on premises; and
3. Just before the animal is shipped, remove, or direct the removal of, the "VT Condemned" tag on animals that are to be treated off premise. This does not apply to VT Condemned veal calves.

G. IPP are to:

1. 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 VT program employee;
2. It is the responsibility of the PHV to verify that an animal that is identified as "VT Condemned" is either disposed of properly or held for further observation or treatment by the establishment (see 9 CFR 309.13(a) and (b)), and
3. Complete VT Form MI59 "Daily Disposition", for each animal identified as "VT Condemned" on ante-mortem inspection.

H. IPP may record multiple dead animals (e.g., dead-on-arrivals) and the associated serial “VT Condemned” tag numbers on a single VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition”.

XIV. DELAYED SLAUGHTER

A. 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 Chief of Inspection

B. 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 “VT 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.

NOTE: Delayed slaughter is not permitted for cattle (9 CFR 309.1(a) and 311.27).

XV. PROCEDURES FOR EMERGENCY SLAUGHTER

A. 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 and 311.27), then the PHV is to:

1. Determine post-mortem whether there is evidence of an injury present that rendered emergency slaughter necessary. The PHV is to condemn the entire carcass if there is no evidence of a condition that provides a valid reason for the emergency slaughter (9 CFR 311.27); and
2. Assess the condition of the animal that underwent the emergency slaughter and make a disposition determination. The PHV is 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 and VAAFM do not permit emergency slaughter of cattle as the parts and carcasses of cattle slaughtered in the absence of an inspector are not to be used for human food (9 CFR 311.27). IPP are to perform ante-mortem inspection on all cattle before slaughter.

XVI. RECORDKEEPING AND DOCUMENTATION

A. IPP are to collect the original, or a copy, of the documentation used by the establishment (e.g., pen card or other document) in presenting the animals for ante-mortem inspection on a daily basis. In general, IPP are to keep the establishment ante-mortem information in the VAAFM inspection office for one week following the end of the respective slaughter week and then dispose of this documentation. However, if IPP do not enter the information into PHIS following the instructions in paragraph B after 1 week, IPP are to keep the documentation until they enter the information.

B. PHVs are to complete VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition”, 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 with the establishment documentation information. PHVs are to record the following:

1. Slaughter at Est. No. – Indicate the official establishment number where the animal is to be slaughtered;
2. Condemn or Suspect Tag No. – Write in the tag number and cross out the not applicable “U.S. Condemned” or “U.S. Suspect.” These tags are used for the following purposes:
 - a. “US Condemned” tags (red “Z” Tag) are used to identify the animal condemned and are recorded in PHIS with the appropriate condition for ante-mortem condemnation.
 - b. “US Suspect” tags (silver “M” tag) are to be used to identify the US Suspect animal receiving PM disposition (and the disposition results) and are recorded in PHIS (ADR) for the tag type and number. This tag number should be used for those animals tagged as US Suspects instead of a retain tag number.

NOTE: VT Retained tags (the 4-part gang tag) are still to be used on the slaughter floor for identifying and controlling the carcasses and parts of US Suspects or livestock passed for normal slaughter. The VT Retained tag number is to be recorded in PHIS for identifying those livestock that were passed for normal slaughter during AM but received a PM disposition.

3. Kind of Animal – Species, breed, or class of animal (e.g., Hereford Bull, Hampshire gilt, and mixed breed ewe);
4. Sex;
5. 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;
6. Temperature – Actual temperature of the animal (TB reactors and animals the PHV suspects may have an abnormal temperature);
7. Weight – Estimate the animal’s weight in pounds;
8. Remarks – Brief description of ante-mortem findings that may aid post-mortem disposition. Also, record back tags and any other identifying numbers;
9. PHV Signature – A PHV is to sign the form when an animal is condemned;
10. Date – Current date; and
11. Post-mortem Report – Use of the Post-mortem Report section of the form is optional for note taking.

C. PHVs are to keep VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition” with establishment documentation (e.g., pen cards) for at least 1 week to ensure the capture of ante-mortem findings into the PHIS Animal Disposition Report.

D. Additional uses for VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition”, include:

1. For a TB reactor, use the reactor tag number instead of the “U.S. Suspect” tag number on line 2; and
2. For epithelioma, actinobacillosis, and actinomycosis, include the number of animals in the lot on line 2 and state animals are “untagged.”

E. A separate VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition” 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 (epithelioma of the eye [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. Retained” tag and record them as suspects in PHIS (see [FSIS Directive 6100.2, Post-Mortem Livestock Inspection](#)). Under these circumstances the FSIS Form 6150-1 serves as the means to identify the group of animals with each condition.

F. PHVs are to complete VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition” for each “U.S. Condemned” animal, alive or dead. Mark through suspect and record the condemned tag number. PHVs or designees are to record the appropriate ante-mortem information into PHIS.

G. IPP are to enter the appropriate slaughter data in the Establishment Reporting submenu of the Animal Disposition menu in PHIS.

H. Total subclass Head Count. Under “Add Inspected Slaughter,” select the appropriate class (e.g. cattle, swine) of livestock. For each subclass (e.g. steers, heifers; market swine (barrows and gilts)), IPP are to enter the head count by subtracting the total number of livestock condemned on ante-mortem inspection from the number of head for each subclass presented for ante-mortem inspection. Dead livestock are “not presented” for ante-mortem inspection and are not subtracted from the head count. The head count for each subclass includes all US Suspects for each subclass passed for slaughter. (Table 1.0 demonstrates how to calculate the head count for each subclass; market swine (barrows and gilts) is a subclass of the Swine Class. Fig. 1.0 demonstrates where the head count is entered.)

Step	No. of head	Note or Instruction
Number of Livestock of a Particular Subclass Presented for ante-mortem inspection	96	
Number of head condemned on ante-mortem Note: Number does not include deads that are not presented for inspection.	-1	Documented in PHIS with “U.S. Condemned” “Z” tag number

Number of Livestock (subclass) Slaughtered including the number of US Suspects.	95	Enter this number in the "Head Count" box.
--	-----------	---

Figure 1.0 - Entering "Head Count" Values in PHIS under the Animal Disposition Establishment Reporting Menu

The screenshot displays the 'Sub-Class Summary' form in PHIS. On the left is a navigation menu with 'Establishment Reporting' selected. The main form area shows the following details:

- Establishment:** -Preme Packing Co. - M55.
- Date:** 2/22/2013
- Shift:** Shift 1
- Class:** Swine
- Sub-Class*:** Market Swine
- Head Count :** 95
- Live Weight:** [input field] lbs
- Dressed Weight:** [input field] lbs
- Weight Not Reported:**

Below the form are two buttons: 'Add Disposition Record' and 'Add Multiple Disposition Records'. At the bottom, a table header is visible with columns: TagType, TagNumber, Condition, Disposition, and Edit. The table content shows 'No records to display.'

I. Total Class Head Count: PHIS calculates automatically the total for each class by summation of each subclass. Under class summary, the “head count” shown under the Animal Disposition–Establishment Reporting menu of PHIS represents the total number of livestock of all subclasses passed for slaughter including the number of US. Suspects passed for slaughter. See Fig. 1.1. Example: Two steers plus six heifers (subclasses) equals eight cattle (class).

Figure 1.1 - Class “Head Count” Sums Number of Subclasses Passed for Slaughter

Class Summary Information

Establishment: [redacted]
 Date: 11/8/2013
 Shift: Shift 1

Class*: Cattle
 Head Count: 8 [APHIS Lab Sampling](#) [Print Condemn. Cert](#)

[Add Sub-Class](#)

Sub-Class	Head Count	Live Weight	Dressed Weight	Edit	Delete
Heifer	2				
Bull/Stag	0				
Steer	6				

NOTE: Bull/Stag is zero when the only bull presented for slaughter was condemned on ante-mortem. The subclass must be entered in PHIS to allow IPP to print a condemn certificate when requested by the establishment.

J. Ante-Mortem Condemned

1. IPP are to enter livestock condemned on ante-mortem inspection into PHIS. IPP are not to include dead animals in the head count of the sub-class.
2. IPP are to transfer the information from VT Form MI59 “Daily Disposition” into the Animal Disposition Report (ADR) in PHIS, as follows:

Fig. 2.0 Entering Ante-mortem Condemned Livestock in PHIS

Shift: Shift 1
 Class: Cattle

Sub-Class*: Steer [Print Condemn. Ce](#)

Head Count: 1,000

Live Weight: lbs

Dressed Weight: lbs

Weight Not Reported:

[Add Disposition Record](#) [Add Multiple Disposition Records](#)

	TagType	TagNumber	Condition	Disposition	Edit	Delete
Edit	U.S. Condemned	Z2345768	Non-ambulatory	Ante-mortem Condemned		
Edit	U.S. Condemned	Z3456768	Deads	Ante-mortem Condemned		
Edit	U.S. Condemned	Z3456769	Deads	Ante-mortem Condemned		
Edit	U.S. Condemned	Z3456770	Deads	Ante-mortem Condemned		

[Go Back](#) [Save](#) [Save & New](#)

- a. Select the class and enter the sub-class head count.
- b. Click on “Add Disposition Record” when entering a single animal condition.
 - i. Enter the tag type and number.
 - ii. Enter the condition;
 - iii. Enter the disposition; and
 - iv. Select Save.
- c. Click on “Add Multiple Disposition Records” when there are multiple animals condemned for the same condition and then:
 - i. Enter the tag type and number;
 - ii. Enter the number of records;
 - iii. Enter the condition;
 - iv. Enter the disposition; and
 - v. Select Save.

K. Condemnation Certificates: For each subclass of livestock with any ante-mortem condemned, the subclass must be active in PHIS (i.e., must have a head count value of “zero” or more) to print a condemnation certificate for livestock condemned on ante-mortem or PM. A head count of “zero” is possible in PHIS when all livestock of a particular subclass are condemned on ante-mortem. Example: As per Fig. 1.1, IPP may print a condemned certificate for the only bull condemned on ante-mortem as demonstrated with a PM head count of “0”.

XVII. QUESTIONS

Questions can be referred to the meat inspection office at 802-828-2426.

Katherine M. McNamara DVM

VT Meat Inspection Service