



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Food Safety and
Inspection Service

Washington, D. C.
20250

From: [REDACTED]
Date: 12/13/2011
Subject: Memorandum Of Interview YJL4210121313G
Meeting Date: 12/13/2011
Meeting Time: 2:15 PM
Reason Code:

Comments:

On 12/12/12, at approximately 1415 hours MST, Front Line Supervisor (FLS) [REDACTED] SPHV [REDACTED] and Mrs. Sarah De Los Santos, company member, met telephonically with Denver Deputy District Manager (DDM) Anna Gallegos to discuss Establishment 07299 interest in conducting inspected equine slaughter operations.

DDM Gallegos began the meeting by explaining this was just a meeting to share the preliminary information and the issues associated with inspected equine slaughter in the United States still needed to be reviewed by Congress.

DDM Gallegos stated establishments would be able conduct the slaughter of horses and other species within the same facility; a change from the regulation of separate facilities. DDM Gallegos did state the facilities would need to have a modified rail height to accommodate the longer equine carcasses. Mrs. De Los Santos reported the establishment has previously addressed the rail height issue during the joining of the new partners in order to accommodate the Holstein cows routinely slaughtered. SPHV [REDACTED] reported the current rail height is often inadequate for the larger Holsteins and hooks in the forelimbs are required to keep the carcasses from touching the floor. SPHV [REDACTED] also stated there is concern with evisceration as the current method requires the gutter to stand in the bogey and lower the carcass rail to the appropriate height for the pelvic cut. SPHV [REDACTED] explained the gutter would not be able to lower the rail to reach for gutting with the longer equine carcasses as they would definitely contact the floor.

DDM Gallegos continued addressing other equine facility requirements such as pens needing to be metal and not wood. SPHV [REDACTED] asked if the requirements in the supplied PowerPoint (see attached) such as scaffolding or a catwalk for antemortem was still correct. DDM Gallegos reported that it was correct the polls and withers of the horses needed to be observed during antemortem inspection. SPHV [REDACTED] asked if all other information in the PowerPoint was current and DDM Gallegos stated it was. At that time, SPHV [REDACTED] provide Mrs. De Los Santos with a copy of the PowerPoint slides covering equine slaughter requirements and explained the copy was for the company.

DDM Gallegos next discussed the use of a waiver in regards to a Salmonella Initiative Program (SIP) and stated the establishment should address Salmonella and other microorganisms as they are not utilizing a separate facility for equine slaughter. SPHV [REDACTED] reported Mrs. De Los Santos had informed SPHV [REDACTED] earlier the email address for SIP information was not working. DDM Gallegos reported she would investigate the mailbox malfunction. DDM Gallegos stated the establishment may submit the paperwork for an updated grant of inspection to include equine slaughter to the District Office, who will then hold the request until further notice. DDM Gallegos explained that although equine slaughter is covered in 9 CFR, the funding for inspection has not yet been identified. The establishment can submit FSIS Form 5200 and indicate equine slaughter. DDM Gallegos explained there were not any identified pathogens of concern in equine slaughter at this time; however, the establishment must research this topic and supply supporting documentation for the developed HACCP plan. DDM Gallegos inquired what the establishment intended to do with their equine product, stated that equine product can be sold in the United States; however, there is no market for it. Mrs. De Los Santos reported the

[REDACTED] SPHV [REDACTED] asked DDM Gallegos if the establishment should also update the grant of inspection paperwork to include export operations and DDM Gallegos reported that would be good for the company to have completed in advance. SPHV [REDACTED] explained to Mrs. De Los Santos it would be prudent to identify the market for the equine product as the importing country will have slaughter and processing requirements which must be met and these requirements vary between countries and change frequently. FLS [REDACTED] stated the company would be responsible for following those changes and meeting the requirements.

DDM Gallegos concluded the meeting by stating that currently, equine slaughter is not eligible for custom exempt operations, more information on equine slaughter will be generated and disseminated, and there will be some type of FSIS training for equine slaughter and processing. DDM Gallegos reported she is planning on visiting the facility and January and FLS [REDACTED] reported she will plan on also being present for that visit.

DDM Gallegos asked if there were any further questions and FLS [REDACTED] SPHV [REDACTED] and Mrs. De Los Santos indicated they had none. SPHV [REDACTED] reported she would generate a MOI (Memorandum of Interview) of this meeting and distribute to all present parties.

The meeting closed at approximately 1430 hours.

PHIS Copy

Establishment Copy

File Copy

Electronic copies to DDM Gallegos and FLS [REDACTED]

Plant Management Response: