

CATTLE RECEIVING STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) FOR CONTROL OF NON-AMBULATORY DISABLED CATTLE AND AGE DETERMINATION OF CATTLE FOR SLAUGHTER

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This document is to be used as an example of an SOP for control SRMs in a slaughter operation, in accordance with USDA-FSIS Notices 4-04 and 5-04. Each operation should modify this document or create a new SOP according to the in-plant operations.

Non-Ambulatory Disabled Cattle

Non-Ambulatory is defined by 9 CFR 309.2(b) as:

Livestock that cannot rise from a recumbent position or that cannot walk, including, but not limited to, those with broken appendages, severed tendons or ligaments, nerve paralysis, fractured vertebral column or metabolic conditions.

Procedures:

1. Cattle that meet the definition of Non-Ambulatory will no longer be accepted for slaughter at this establishment.
2. If an animal becomes Non-Ambulatory after it has passed ante-mortem inspection, slaughter personnel will notify inspection and verify that it was ambulatory at ante-mortem inspection, before beginning the slaughter process.
3. Cattle that are condemned during ante-mortem inspection will be properly disposed of in accordance with 9 CFR 309.13. Slaughter Manager will record the disposal process and maintain a file on-site.

Determination of Cattle Age and Identification for Control of SRMs

Procedure:

1. The age of the animal(s) will be determined for all animals thought or intended to be young beef (< 30 months of age). Slaughter operations will require documentation of the age of the live beef animal(s) at receiving. Records from a farm or ranch on which the animal(s) was born and finished, could include:
 - Animal identification (i.e. ear tags) with the corresponding calving date record
 - Calving Season Dates (beginning and ending dates)
 - Cow Artificial Insemination Date or Breeding Season Dates (beginning and ending dates)

Records from feedlots could include:

- Receiving/Processing Records of animals with identification of the producer/backgrounder. Producer/backgrounder records must identify the age of the animals.

- Animal Identification (i.e. ear tags) given at receiving with corresponding producer identification/calving records or certified group calving date range (beginning and ending dates)
2. Animal identification and age classification (< 30 or ≥30 months of age) will be recorded. The corresponding carcass identification will also be recorded.
 3. In the absence of age documentation, the age of this animal(s) will be determined using the dental examination according to FSIS Notice 5-04.
 - a. Cattle without age documentation could be managed as ≥ 30 months of age, if desired.
 4. Animals thought or intended to be old beef (≥ 30 months of age) will not require age documentation.
 5. If possible, animals ≥ 30 months of age will be held for slaughtering after animals < 30 months of age are slaughtered.

Monitoring:

Records at receiving will be collected by the Slaughter manager or designee

Corrective Actions:

1. If age documentation is not available at receiving, the producer/feedlot will be notified that the animal is being held for dental examination or being managed as ≥ 30 months of age.
2. If age documentation is not available at receiving, the driver and producer/feedlot will be notified in writing of the plant's age and animal identification procedures.

Verification:

1. The slaughter manager will review the records daily for completeness.
2. The slaughter manager will observe the receiving monitoring activities once every three months for proper procedures.
3. The plant management will review the SOP as new scientific or regulatory information is made available.

Records:

1. Cattle receiving log
 - a. Animal ID and Age Documentation
 - b. Verification

