Humane Slaughter Regulations

9 CFR.313.2

- Driving livestock “minimize excitement and discomfort”
- “Any use of such implements (referring to electric prods or other driving implements) which, in the opinion of the inspector is excessive, is prohibited”
Big Question: When Does Tapping Become Beating?

- Video “Proper Use of Livestock Driving Tools with Temple Grandin”
- Demonstrates hitting an empty corrugated cardboard box. When it starts to crush, tapping has become beating.
Humane Slaughter Act

- “All animals rendered insensible to pain by a single blow or gunshot”
- Problem for the industry – Absolute perfection is impossible – High standards are possible
# AMI Core Criteria

1 though 5 Acceptable Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Acceptable</th>
<th>Excellent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stunned with one shot</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insensible</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric prod</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Falling down - Score in two locations:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>truck unloading and stunning area</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocalizing - All vocalizations in stun box</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>counts during active handling</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>With a head holder</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
✓ All scores are per animal.
✓ An acceptable score on all five of the numerically scored core criteria is required to have an acceptable level of welfare.
✓ Religious slaughter: Omit the stunning score, and score all the other variables. Restrain animal in comfortable, upright position.
Automatic Failure

✓ Starting a dressing procedure on an animal showing signs of return to sensibility.

✓ Act of abuse
Core Criteria 6
Acts of Abuse

• Dragging conscious animals – Violation of both AMI and USDA/FSIS
• Intentionally applying prods to sensitive parts
• Deliberately slamming gates on livestock
• Purposefully driving livestock on top of one another
• Hitting of beating an animal
Core Criteria 7

Access to water

Do animals have access to clean drinking water?

Required by USDA/FSIS
Secondary Audit Items

Not used for determining if a facility passes or fails an audit
Trouble Shooting Handling

1. Distractions that cause balking
2. Slick floor causes agitation
3. Facility design problem
4. Employee training issue
Most Common Distractions

- Reflections on water or metal
- Air blowing towards approaching cattle
- Moving people or equipment
- Chute entrance too dark
- Visual cliff in conveyor restrainer
- Shadows high contrasts
Do you see anything in this photo?
Animal Avoids Walking on the Reflection
Bright Green Hose May Cause Animals to Stop
Tie Up Back Stops
Be Observant

What distraction would cause balking in this photo?
Reflections on a Wet Floor
Cattle may refuse to walk over drain
Install Solid Sides and Shields to Block Vision
Identify the distractions in these photos
Easy Fixes to Reduce Balking

1. Hang a curtain in front of the restrainer
2. Move a ceiling light to eliminate a reflection on wet shiny surfaces
3. Change color of employee hats or coats to reduce contrast
4. Change where people stand
5. Experiment with lights
6. Flooring in crowd pens and chutes should look the same
Rubber flaps reduces rearing in this conveyor restrainer by blocking vision.
A solid barrier around the animal’s head keeps it calm by blocking vision.
On a sunny day cattle may refuse to enter a dark building.
Light up a dark entrance to reduce balking
To reduce reflections, this lamp was directed through a hole in a shield that prevented the cattle from seeing distractions.
Non-slip Flooring is Essential

Audits Keep Finding Slick Floors
Metal rods welded to the floor prevent rapid small slips (jigging)
Causes of Increased Vocalization

1. Electric prod use
2. Missed stuns
3. Excessive pressure from restraint device
4. Sharp edges on restrainer devices
5. Isolated animal
6. Slipping
Principles of Restraint

- Block Vision
- Non-slip Floor
- Optimal Pressure
- Restraint devices have smooth motion. Sudden jerky motion frightens
Training Employees

1. Flight Zone Principles
2. Point of Balance
3. No Yelling
4. Move Cattle in Small Groups
5. Fill Crowd Pen Half Full
6. Get Electric Prods Out of People’s Hands
Alternative Driving Aids
Main Tools

Electric prods should not be constantly carried.
Move Small Groups
Flight Zone Diagram

- Edge of flight zone
- Blind spot shaded grey
- Handler position to stop movement
- Handler position to start movement
- Point of balance
Using the flight zone correctly to control cattle movement
Handler Movement Pattern to Keep Cattle Moving into a Squeeze Chute or Restrainer

- **Point of Balance**: Cattle will move forward when the handler passes the point of balance at the shoulder of each animal. The handler walks in the opposite direction along side the single file race.

- **Path to move animals forward**

- **Return path leaving flight zone**
Handler Movement Pattern to Keep Cattle Moving into the Squeeze Chute in a Curve Chute System

Cattle will move forward when handler crosses the point of balance of each animal.
Fill Crowd Pen Half Full
Tips for Handling

1. Move in **small** bunches
2. The crowd pen is the “passing through pen” *(Do not let animals stand in it)*
3. Timing of bunches so animals **keep moving**
4. Fill the crowd pen **half full**
5. Do not push animals with the crowd gate
When Building New Facilities

Curved Chutes with Solid Sides are Recommended
Use Scoring as a Trouble Shooting Tool

“Do I have a facility problem or a people problem?”

Use balk scoring to determine if you have a facility problem.
# Balking Scores

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Low Balking Plant (well-trained handlers)</th>
<th>High Balking Plant (facility problem)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Cattle Backing Up in the Chute</td>
<td>% Cattle Backing Up in the Chute</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Vocalizing</td>
<td>% Vocalizing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3%</td>
<td>25%</td>
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Vocalization Score Increase Due to Increased Electric Prod Use.
Use Scoring to Show How Changes Made in Your Operation Improved Handling

Effect of Air Blowing into the Faces of Cattle at the Restrainer Entrance on Vocalization Score

Cattle
Reduction in Cattle Vocalizations After Equipment Modifications
Scoring Can Also Be Used to Identify Hard to Handle Animals That May Cause Either Welfare or Meat Quality Problems
Get Down in the Chute and
Get a Cow’s Eye View
You Manage What You Measure

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