NSF International Animal Welfare Program for Religious Slaughter: Red Meat Module

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Objectives

• Understanding what the program is and why it is needed
• Briefly identify the key differences of the NSF International Animal Welfare Program for Religious Slaughter: Red Meat Module
The NSF animal welfare program provides auditable animal-based and resource-based measures of animal welfare (OIE, TAHC).

Evaluation of specific parameters not currently addressed in audits of conventional slaughter with irreversible stun.
Measurements consistent with conventional slaughter (using irreversible stun)

- Assessment of requirements for transport, truck holding, unloading and holding of animals
- Percentage of animals moved using an electric prod
- Percentage of animals that fall/slip
- Percentage of animals vocalizing
- Accuracy of application of stun (when used); Effectiveness of stun to render animal insensible on first application
- Insensibility on the bleed rail
Measurements specific to slaughter without stun

- Design requirements of restraining equipment including headholder, belly lift, etc.
  - Pressure limiting devices with pressure relief valves
  - On hydraulic and pneumatic powered restrainers the head holder, body restraint and rear pusher gate are on separate circuits
  - Incremental control on headholders to obtain optimal pressure
- Assessment of operation (including release) of restraining equipment during slaughter process
- Knife standard
- Time from head restraint to throat cut
- Effectiveness of throat cut
  - Unrestricted blood flow
  - Cut technique, position, depth, and speed can shorten collapse and eye rollback times.
- Time from the throat cut until collapse or eye roll back (within 40 seconds for cattle; within 30 seconds (sheep, goats, calves)
  - Animals that have not collapsed are definitely conscious.
- Requirement for euthanasia of animals with prolonged time to reach insensibility (animal may no longer be acceptable for use according to religious requirements)
Measurements Specific to Slaughter with Reversible Stun

– A stunning to bleed interval score
  • Bled within 30 seconds (NPCB); 20 seconds (head only electrical).
  • Animals showing signs of a return to sensibility be euthanized immediately (animal may no longer be acceptable for use according to religious requirements)

– Return to sensibility score is used as an opportunity for continuous improvement.
  • averaging the score over a larger number of animals (based on any observations at time of audit and of records of plant monitoring of return to sensibility)
Summary

- Utilizing science-based measures and parameters
- Assessment of animal welfare parameters not addressed in conventional slaughter with irreversible stun
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