

I. Animal Welfare Requirements

General: The contractor and all subcontractors must develop and implement written plans that are consistent with a systematic approach to humane handling as outlined in 69 CFR 54625. The plans will be incorporated into their approved technical proposal and must address or include the following requirements.

A. The contractor must ensure that any facility that harvests animals for this program has a:

1. Mission Statement on Animal Handling that is distributed to all employees and conspicuously displayed at the premises.
2. Training program on Animal Welfare that:
 - a. is provided to all employees interacting with animals;
 - b. covers Chapter 2: Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning 7 Core Criteria of the *AMI Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 2007 Edition*;
 - c. is conducted no less frequently than once a year for each designated employee; and,
 - d. requires signed documentation from each employee and confirmation by signature of the designated trainer upon successful completion of training.
3. Quality management plan (internal) that routinely assesses and monitors humane handling through the use of a numerical scoring system conducted by a trained employee.
4. (Beef) Written protocol in-place and enforced that precludes the receipt of or having non-ambulatory, disabled cattle on the harvest facility premise. In the event that animals become non-ambulatory or disabled at any time while present at the harvest facility, the animal will be humanely euthanized and the carcass removed from the premise in a timely manner through contracted services or other means.
5. (hogs and sheep) Written protocol in-place and enforced that ensures all animals designated by FSIS as U.S. Suspects (9 C.F.R. 301.2) that are slaughtered are appropriately segregated during the harvest and production processes and precluded from inclusion in any products purchased by AMS.
6. Written quality management plan to implement the provisions of Chapter 2: Auditing Animal Handling and Stunning 7 Core Criteria of the *AMI Recommended Animal Handling Guidelines and Audit Guide 2007 Edition*, found at the following link: <http://www.animalhandling.org/ht/d/sp/i/1752/pid/1752>

- a. The scope of this audit program will ensure proper animal handling techniques are conducted from the time the transportation conveyance enters the facility's premises through the stunning and exsanguination processes of the animal.
- b. This program will be audited by an entity accredited by AMS. The accreditation of the firms will be conducted by the Audit, Review and Compliance Branch through the **LS ISO Guide 65 Program**. Alternatively, at the option of the contractor or subcontractor, the audits can be performed by AMS auditors.
- c. Program Evaluation and Eligibility
 - 1) The AMS accredited auditing firm must conduct audits within the following format:
 - a.) Audited firms must pass each of the 7 core criteria each time an audit is performed
 - b.) A scoring of acceptable or higher for Core Criteria 1-5 must be attained.
 - c.) Core Criteria 6 and 7 must be fully compliant for Acceptable rating.
 - 2) Initial audit must be performed prior to award of contracts.
 - 3) If an audit is failed for any of the 7 core criteria, the entity is unable to provide product until such time that corrective and preventative actions are approved by the Contracting Officer, implemented and proven effective.
 - 4) Audit Frequency and Status:
 - a.) **STANDARD** - Until four consecutive successfully passed audits are attained, an audit must be conducted within 3 months of the previous audit.
 - b.) **MONTHLY** - If at any time an audit identifies any of the 7 core criteria not meeting the pass requirements while in the **STANDARD** phase, auditing will be required to be conducted on a monthly basis once corrective and preventative actions have been approved by the Contracting Officer, implemented and proven effective. This schedule will be for a period of time until four successive audits are found to meet the pass requirements of the AMI Guidelines; at which time audits shall be conducted on the **STANDARD** basis.
 - c.) If four successfully conducted audits are sequentially completed within a one year period while in **STANDARD** auditing phase, the facility may move to a **SEMI-ANNUAL** audit basis.

- d.) SEMI-ANNUAL - Semi-annual audits may continue until such time that a failed audit is reported or a period of greater than six months has elapsed without any audits being performed; at which time the audits must resume as described for STANDARD audits.
- e.) The Contracting Officer can declare an Animal Welfare Program out of compliance at any time.