

M10805	Hamzah Slaughter House, LLC	14-Mar-24	<p>A meeting was held on March 15, 2024, at approximately 1200 hours between Establishment Owner REDACTED, Acting Baltimore FLS Dr. REDACTED, DVMS Dr. REDACTED, SPHV Dr. REDACTED, SCSi REDACTED, CSI REDACTED, and CSI REDACTED to discuss a humane handling incident that occurred the day prior.</p> <p>At approximately 0620 hours, on 3/14/24, SCSi REDACTED and CSI REDACTED observed the following;</p> <p>A plant employee brought a calf into the head catch and attached the nose pincher. While a second employee pulled the head upward (via rope connected to pincher), the designated “cutter” attempted to make the ritual cut on the calf’s throat. The employee was utilizing a lamb skinning knife for the cut and sawed back-and-forth on the animal’s throat 10-15 times while the calf stood loudly vocalizing. Employees then released the calf’s head and the calf backed out into the chute. The calf remained standing and loudly vocalizing for approximately two minutes, at that time CSI REDACTED asked employees where the larger cutting knife was. Slaughter supervisor REDACTED came onto the slaughter floor, reached inside the box and made a single cut on the animal’s throat which caused it to drop immediately and cease vocalizing.</p> <p>Livestock Humane Handling MOI UIE1314063414I was documented in June of 2023 for a similar issue and in response, Ms. REDACTED purchased longer knives more suited for larger animals. According to IPP, establishment employees will use these knives, but IPP frequently must remind them of their availability.</p> <p>Dr. REDACTED stated if the animal had been released from the slaughter box and the establishment's control prior to REDACTED making the final cut, it would have an egregious humane handling incident since it would not have been considered part of the ritual slaughter process. Dr. REDACTED shared his concerns about this becoming more than an isolated occurrence, and in the future, would result in a discussion with the Raleigh District Office with a letter of concern and possibly contacting the appropriate religious authority.</p> <p>Ms. REDACTED apologized and stated she understood the gravity of the situation</p>
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