



BY AMERICAN MEAT SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

Zero Tolerance Inspections

What?

A visual inspection to verify there is no fecal, ingesta or milk contamination on the carcass.

Validation Assessment/Reassessment?

Upon first slaughter period (initial assessment) and whenever a major equipment, process or volume change (reassessment) takes place.

Who?

Trained personnel, independent to slaughter operations. Capable of assertive, fair and impartial evaluation. Free from harassment, intimidation or retaliation in the event of a failure.

Why?

Hurdle step to prevent pathogenic bacteria from entering food chain.

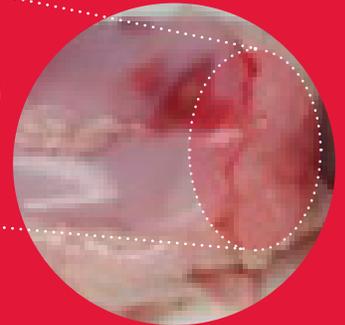
Frequency of Inspections?

Dependent on facility throughput volume and initial validation failure rates.

Documentation

Time/date, carcass id, result (pass/fail) and initials of evaluator. Failures must be followed by corrective and preventative actions.

Zero Tolerance Failures on Pork



Zero Tolerance Failures on Beef



Zero Tolerance Failure Visual Descriptions

Species	Feces & Ingesta	Milk
Cattle	Yellow, green or brown fibrous or plant-like material. May include grain particles.	
Swine	Yellow, tan, brown, or green that may include grain or fibrous plant material.	Clear to white to yellow watery, ropy or curdy
Sheep & Goat	Green, brown-to-black fibrous or plant-like. May also be 'tarry.'	



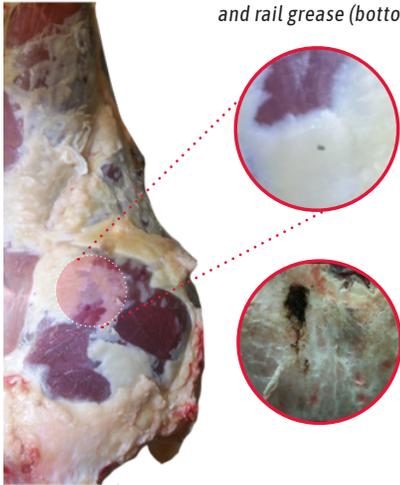
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Contamination Without Failure

Non-fecal, ingesta or milk contamination must be trimmed immediately, but is not a zero tolerance failure.

*Pictured: Metal flake (top)
and rail grease (bottom)*



Immediate Action (aka Corrective Action)

Corrective action fixes the deviation. Trimming the contamination and sterilizing equipment eliminates the contamination leading to failure.

Preventative Action

Purpose: To prevent future failures that are a result of the same root cause.

A root cause analysis/investigation involving personnel and asking questions typically results in the identification of a process or equipment deviation that exposes carcasses to the heightened risk of contamination.

Example:

- Ineffective preventative action: “better final trimming”
- Effective preventative action: “securing & bagging the bung to better control fecal from escaping”

Areas highlighted in yellow are high-risk for contamination and more susceptible to zero tolerance failures.

