

On 12/23/2022 at approximately 1045 hours in live hang line one had accumulated approximately 30 dead birds piled on floor and tub. When making quick observations at live hang all lines seemed to be operating properly and line one was just starting to finish hanging because of bird availability. I made some rounds throughout the room to DOA stands because my main objective was to observe the DOAs CSIs had mentioned from earlier observations. Approaching the DOA stand on line one there were approximately twenty DOAs on walkway. Looking at the tally sheet, during first period there were approximately 350 DOAs on line one, 150 on two and 140 three. At hanging they keep tally of plant rejects (DOA), during same period line one 1200, line two 210 and line three unknown. I was occupied by another issue. This is way above average of DOAs, normally there would be 75 to 100 per line per period. Yesterday and today from the extreme cold surmounted to much larger sums.

As I made it back to line one I noticed the birds appeared rigid, heads and necks cocked abnormally after the euthanasia, not the normal placid lifeless you would see after CAS. I looked in the trays and noticed birds on sides, top of each other, and backs. It appeared to be hanging a bunch of frozen birds. I notified (b)(6) they are hanging frozen birds. I knew birds had just begun to enter picking room, and my observations were same. I went there and most birds were abnormally stiff, I grabbed a head on line (b) and 2 to compare. I shut down line one at approximately 1103 hours thinking these were excessive number of frozen chickens being hung. (b)(6) came to me asking what was wrong. I said they are frozen; I was not understanding her explanation at first. After a while I comprehended the CAS machine is not operating properly. She notified (b)(6) (b)(6). I stressed with (b)(6) that if CAS is not euthanizing properly which is causing suffering, it should not be operating.

(b)(6) wanted to know what needed to be done and insinuated that if CAS is dysfunctional, it should not be used until fixed. He said they were going to get CAS fixed and start the line again. He came back and said we are clearing out the line and working on CAS machine to fix. He asked what he needed to condemn, and I said that is up to you to determine the acceptability. They ended up running the remainder birds on the line through.

I was questioned by (b)(6) and (b)(6) (b)(6) the validity of my regulatory actions. (b)(6) was here recently, and stressed CAS should be operating properly. They made the decision to condemn the birds. I called Dr. James at approximately 1200 hours. He directed me to write an email statement to Dr. Reeder.

Establishment never got CAS fixed and kept line (b) down all night

From: (b)(6) - FSIS
Sent: Fri, 23 Dec 2022 23:13:21 +0000
To: (b)(6) - FSIS
Cc: James, David - FSIS; (b)(6) - FSIS; (b)(6) - FSIS; (b)(6) - FSIS;
Reeder, Robert - FSIS
Subject: RE: Lincoln Premium Poultry GCP

(b)(6),

Were there any cadavers? No, and the following is the reason. I arrived at LPP at 1045 hours, (b)(6) (b)(6) is on vacation, CSIs were concerned for the amount of DOAs in Live Hang. When I arrived there, Line 1 was close to done hanging. All lines had intermittent flow of birds most the day and this was another lapse in birds. I was on course for my main objective, observing DOAs, I went to all DOA stands before heading back to line one. Line one was again hanging birds and that's when I took notice of a deficiency in process.

Are you familiar with this establishment? They have birds protected from elements except when transporting. The trucks are not outside on premises. Most immediately enter a inside loading area. From the last farm I just looked at coming in. The front of the trailer stacks of birds were more lethargic than the rest. Can I say they froze on premises, that would be very difficult to prove.

Like I said I was here for very short time so did not even consider a directed RTC task. The CSIs had told me of the DOAs and that was my main concern. Considering advice from (b)(6) when he was here and others with in poultry that when there is a deviation if euthanasia it should be addressed.

Respectfully,

From: (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2022 3:45 PM
To: (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>
Cc: James, David - FSIS <david.james@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>
Subject: Re: Lincoln Premium Poultry GCP

(b)(6),

From a GCP standpoint, did you observe any cadavers? Did you observe live birds freezing to death on official establishment premises in the coops?

From an NPIS standpoint, did the VI perform an RTE task?

Sent from iPhone

(b)(6)

From: Reeder, Robert - FSIS <robert.reeder@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 23, 2022 12:16 PM

To: (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>

Cc: James, David - FSIS <david.james@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>

Subject: RE: Lincoln Premium Poultry GCP

Thanks. Generally speaking, yes, if the stunning system (in this case CO-2 vs. electrical) isn't working, I would be asking the establishment why are they using dysfunctional equipment.

Dr. Robert Reeder Jr.
District Manager
Office of Field Operations, Denver District
FSIS/USDA
P.O. Box 25387, Bldg. 45
Denver, CO 80225-0387
(303) 236 9788 Office
(303) 236 9794 fax
(b)(6) mobile
Robert.Reeder@usda.gov

From: (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>

Sent: Friday, December 23, 2022 12:08 PM

To: Reeder, Robert - FSIS <robert.reeder@usda.gov>

Cc: James, David - FSIS <david.james@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>; (b)(6) - FSIS <(b)(6)@usda.gov>

Subject: Lincoln Premium Poultry GCP

Hello Dr. Reader,

I am covering part of first shift since (b)(6) is on A/L.

They have way above average of DOAs yesterday and today from the extreme cold. When observing the hanging just after CAS lines all lines seemed to be operating properly. I made some rounds throughout the room and made it back to line one and noticed the birds appeared stiff, not the normal placid you would see after CAS. I looked in the trays and noticed birds being on sides on top of each other, on backs. I saw Supervisor in area and said they are hanging too many frozen birds. I went to picking room to observe the birds over there and noticed every bird was abnormally stiff. I shut down line one at approximately 1103 hours initially thinking they were hanging excessive number of frozen chickens. Supervisor in picking came to me asking what was wrong. I said they are frozen, and she said the CAS machine is not operating properly. She wanted me to turn the line back on, but I told her that if CAS is not euthanizing properly which is causing discomfort and suffering something.

The first shift supervisor arrived approximately 1111 hours. He was orally and physically shown the issues. He said they were going to get CAS fixed and start running again. He came back and said we are

cleaning and throwing out birds on the line, opened CAS machine and trying to fix. He asked what he needed to condemn, and I said it that is up to you to determine the acceptability. They ended up running the remainder birds on the line through.

I was questioned by more senior supervisors the validity of my regulatory actions. (b)(6) was here recently, and stressed CAS should be operating properly. They made the decision to condemn the birds. I called Dr. James at approximately 1200 hours. He directed me to send this email to you.

Respectfully,

(b)(6)

SCSI / USDA / FSIS / OFO – Denver District

Lincoln Premium Poultry, Est 48304, 2nd shift

1325 E. Cloverly Road

Fremont, NE 68025

CSI office (b)(6) SPHV/SCSI Office (b)(6)

(b)(6) @usda.gov