

M47804

Troudt Meats, LLC

35450 County Road 48

Otis, CO

Category VI - Electric Prod/Alternative Object Use

On March 9, 2026, at approximately 0815 hours, I, the CSI, was performing humane handling verification when I observed the following noncompliance:

I observed the plant manager and an establishment employee moving a bovine up the alley into the stunning box area. The bovine was very reluctant to move into the stunning box area where four of the establishment personnel were conversing. I observed the establishment employee apply the use of the handheld electric prod in the anus area three (3) times to get the bovine to move into the stunning box. I have previously informed the plant owner and slaughter supervisor that the anus is not an acceptable area to use a handheld electric prod on.

The bovine was very excited and fractious in the stunning box and would not lift its head into the head catch restraint. While the bovine's head was down an establishment employee tried to kick at the bovine's snout, no contact was observed. I informed the employee that kicking an animal was not an acceptable humane handling method of trying to get the bovine to lift its head. The employee nodded and stated ok, then proceeded to kick at the bovine again. At the same time, a lasso was placed around the bovine's neck to try to restrain the bovine while the establishment implemented their alternative restraining method, application of a halter around the bovine's head. The bovine reared up, with eyes rolled back, and foaming at the mouth. The bovine was in a clear state of distress and excitement. I stopped the restraining attempt and informed the plant manager and slaughter supervisor of the observed regulatory noncompliance with 9 CFR 313.2 (b). U.S. Reject tag No. B41 418929 was applied to the stun box. The bovine was returned to the pens without further incidence.

The Denver District Management Team was contacted through supervisory channels. U.S. Reject tag was removed at approximately 10:30 hours after consultation with the District Management Team. This establishment has not implemented a robust systematic approach to the humane handling of livestock. A review of records from the past 90 days did not reveal noncompliance issued due to the same root cause.