**HUMANE HANDLING ACTIVITIES TRACKING SYSTEM (HATS) CATEGORIES SUMMARY**

**Category I - Inclement Weather (9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2):** IPP verify that the establishment adapts its facilities and handling practices to inclement weather to ensure the humane handling of animals. Inclement weather (e.g., rain, heat, snow, or ice) may cause adverse effects on facilities and animal handling.

**Category II - Truck Unloading (9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2):** IPP are to record their verification of the establishment’s livestock handling and unloading facilities and its humane handling procedures during livestock unloading activities.

**Category III - Water and Feed Availability (9 CFR 313.2):** IPP record their verification of the establishment’s compliance with 9 CFR 313.2(e), which requires that water be accessible to livestock in all holding pens, and that animals held longer than 24 hours have access to feed.

**Category IV – Handling During Ante-mortem Inspection (9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2):** While IPP are conducting ante-mortem inspection, they are to record the time spent verifying that the establishment’s facilities and procedures for humanely handling animals during ante-mortem inspection meet regulatory requirements.

**Category V - Handling of Suspect and Disabled (9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2):** IPP are to verify that the establishment handles US Suspect and disabled livestock humanely. In establishments that present higher numbers of disabled livestock, IPP would typically spend more time verifying the humane handling of these animals than they would in establishments that present few disabled livestock.

**Category VI - Electric Prod/Alternative Object Use (9 CFR 313.2):** IPP are to verify that the establishment’s procedures for humanely and effectively moving livestock do not involve excessive prodding or the use of sharp objects. IPP are to verify this category after ante-mortem inspection has single file chutes, and stunning areas) involving animal movement. Establishments are to use implements (e.g., electric prods, canvas slappers) as little as possible to minimize excitement and injury and are not to drive livestock faster than a normal walking speed. Any use of such implements that, in the opinion of the inspector, is excessive is prohibited (9 CFR 313.2 (a), (b) & (c), 313.5(a)(2), 313.16(a)(2), and 313.30 (a)(2), as applicable).

**Category VII -Slips and Falls (9 CFR 313.1 and 313.2):** IPP are to verify that establishments have provided adequate footing in livestock facilities to prevent animals from slipping and falling as they are handled and moved through the livestock facilities.

**Category VIII -Stunning Effectiveness (9 CFR 313.5, 313.15, 313.16, and 313.30):** IPP are to verify that the establishment’s stunning methods are being appropriately and effectively administered, producing immediate unconsciousness in the animal. Livestock are to be rendered insensible to pain (unconscious) by a single blow or gun shot or an electrical, chemical, or other means that is rapid and effective. The stunning area is to be designed and constructed to limit the free movements of the animals and to allow the stunning blow to have a high degree of accuracy. Ante-mortem condemned animals are to be euthanized humanely, using one of the four stunning methods identified in 9 CFR 313 or other humane methods acceptable to FSIS.

**Category IX -Conscious Animals on the Rail (9 CFR 313.5, 313.15, 313.16, and 313.30):** IPP are to ensure that animals do not regain consciousness after stunning. This category focuses specifically on the time after stunning and throughout the process of shackling, throwing, casting, hoisting, sticking, and bleeding of the animal. Establishments are required to produce, at a minimum, unconsciousness or surgical anesthesia after application of the stunning method and the animals are to remain in this state until death. The following regulations address these requirements:

**Stunning Method Regulatory Reference Guide for HATS Categories VIII and IX:**

Chemical; Carbon Dioxide – 9 CFR 313.5

Mechanical; Captive Bolt – 9 CFR 313.15

Mechanical; Gunshot – 9 CFR 313.16

Electrical; Stunning or Slaughtering with Electric Current – 9 CFR 313.30 and 313.2 (f)