**Humane Handling-Consciousness and Stunning Definitions**

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| **Term** | **Definition** |
| **Conscious** | Awake or aware; able to respond to stimuli; able to respond to environment. Conscious = Sensible. |
| **Effective Stun** | Successfully making and keeping an animal unconscious throughout shackling, sticking, and bleeding. Effective stunning results in an unconscious animal. |
| **Immediate, Effective Corrective Action** | A plant employee instantly makes an ineffectively stunned animal unconscious without hesitation or being instructed by IPP, with an immediately available back-up stunning device. This is not defined by a specific elapsed time. The corrective action must be timely and effective in rendering the animal unconscious. If the animal remains conscious after this second attempt/corrective action, then it was not effective. Consider access to the animal, animal movement, and adequate placement of stunning device. |
| **Ineffective Stun** | A stunning attempt that makes contact with the animal but does not make and keep the animal unconscious throughout shackling, sticking, and bleeding. Ineffective stunning results in a conscious animal.  |
| **Missed Stun** | Missing the animal by not making contact (also referred to as a miss) does not count as a stunning attempt. |
| **Regulatory Control Action** | The retention of product, rejection of equipment or facilities, slowing or stopping of lines, or refusal to allow the processing of specifically identified product. |
| **Security Stun/Knock** | Also sometimes called a Safety Stun, Assurance Stun, or Double Stun. This is an extra knock on an animal that was already rendered insensible by the first stun attempt. It is applied at the discretion of the establishment (can be applied at any time). If the animal remains conscious after the first stun, the next attempt is NOT a security knock (it is a follow-up stun attempt)! By definition, any stun applied to a conscious animal cannot be a Security Stun/Knock.  |
| **Stunning** | The action of causing unconsciousness in an animal; performed by one of the four approved methods: 1. Chemical - Carbon Dioxide (9 CFR 313.5), 2. Mechanical - Captive Bolt (9 CFR 313.15), 3. Gunshot (9 CFR 313.16), 4. Electrical - Electric current (9 CFR 313.30) |
| **Unconscious** | Not awake or aware; not able to respond to stimuli; not able to respond to environment. Unconscious = Insensible. |

**Is an animal regaining consciousness or conscious?**

3 Hallmark signs of returning to consciousness are:

1. Rhythmic breathing

2. Eye reflex in response to mechanical (touch) stimulus

3. Spontaneous natural eye blinks without touching the eye or eye area (in isolated cases)

The above signs tell you to pay close attention to the animal to determine if the animal is conscious or regaining consciousness.

Observation of these signs should not automatically result in taking a regulatory action.

Note: Some properly stunned animals may make some noises such as snoring type breaths or groans due to being relaxed, having stomach gas escape, or the last dying breaths, etc and these noises may be mistaken as vocalizations. Watch long enough to determine if the animal has actually become conscious.

