



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND CONSUMER SERVICES
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION
Raleigh, North Carolina**

Steve Troxler, Commissioner

MPID NOTICE	6-15	8-31-15
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Firearm Safety Policy

PURPOSE: It is the requirement of the State of North Carolina to provide a place of employment that is free from recognized hazards that cause or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to employees or the public. This notice is being issued in order to maintain a safe working environment for NCDA&CS Meat and Poultry Inspection Division employees who work in environments where firearms are used.

I. CANCELLATION: None

II. REFERENCES: NC Employee Workplace Program Requirements for Safety and Health; NCDA&CS Safety, Health and Environmental Policy

III. PROCEDURE: In order to maintain a safe working environment, slaughter establishments that use firearms as a primary or secondary stunning device must do so in a manner to minimize risk to NCDA&CS Meat and Poultry Inspection Division employees. Specifically:

- Establishment management is responsible for ensuring only competent employees carry, store and discharge firearms.
- Establishment management is responsible for ensuring that all firearms are in good working order, including all safety devices on the firearms.
- Establishment management/employees must inform inspection personnel prior to discharging a firearm and must give inspection personnel time to retreat to a safe location before that firing occurs.
- Establishment management/employees must give an "all clear" signal when they have finished discharging a firearm and have it secured properly.
- Establishment management/employees are required to store all firearms in a secure manner at all times to prevent an accidental discharge.
- Establishment management/employees carrying handguns on their person must do so using an appropriate holster fastened in a manner to minimize the possibility of an accidental discharge.

- Prior to a firearm being discharged indoors, MPID team members are required, at a minimum, to move to another room and have a solid physical barrier (wall) in between them and the establishment employee using the firearm.
- Prior to a firearm being discharged in the animal holding pens or other outdoor location, MPID team members are to move to a safe location behind a solid physical barrier (wall). If no safe location is readily available MPID team members should move indoors until the “all clear” signal is given.
- MPID team members are to report any accidental discharges of firearms or other related unsafe conditions involving firearms immediately to the Raleigh Office by calling 1-800-477-9230.

IV. INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES

At the next weekly establishment meeting after receipt of this notice, IPP are to meet with establishment management to discuss each of the items in the Procedure (Section III.) of this notice.

V. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: If you have any questions or need additional information, contact the Raleigh Office at (919) 707-3180.

Dr. Karen Beck
State Director

DISTRIBUTION:
 All MPID Personnel

SUBJECT CATEGORY:
 Administrative