

**WEST VIRGINIA**  
**SECRETARY OF STATE**  
**KEN HECHLER**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #2

**FILED**  
May 16 1 14 PM '97

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**NOTICE OF A COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE**

AGENCY: West Virginia Department of Agriculture TITLE NUMBER: 61

RULE TYPE: Legislative; CITE AUTHORITY WV Code §19-2B-3

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES  NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 16

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: Inspection of Meat and Poultry

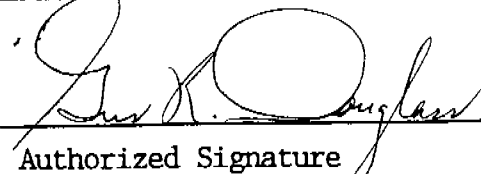
IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON June 30, 1997 AT 4:00 p.m. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS.

Dr. W. J. Charminski  
West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
Meat and Poultry Inspection Division  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.

  
Authorized Signature

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

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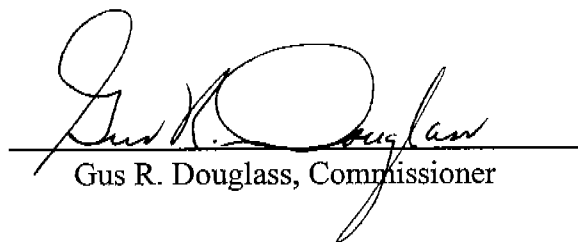
**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Brief Summary  
of the proposed rule to amend  
meat and poultry inspection rules**

In 1996, the West Virginia Department of Agriculture adopted, by reference, Federal meat and poultry inspection regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register prior to January 1, 1995.

Our rules must be periodically updated in order to maintain our "equal to" status and continue Federal funding of our Program.

The proposed rule is intended to update the incorporation, by reference, of Federal regulations promulgated in the Federal Register before June 1, 1997.

  
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

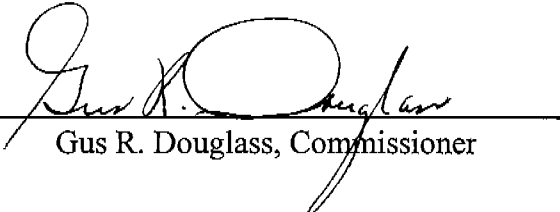
Charleston, West Virginia  
May 16, 1997

**WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**Statement of Circumstances  
which require the rule**

The Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act that provide for Federal-State Cooperative Inspection Programs require, using identical language, that State programs must have laws and regulations, and other procedures, that are "at least equal to" Federal ones. Maintenance of updated regulations is one of the conditions for receiving Federal funds to run a State program--50% of total operating costs.

Therefore, to provide food safety at the required level and continue receiving Federal funds (about \$600,000 annually), the rules governing inspection of meat and poultry promulgated by the West Virginia Commissioner of Agriculture in 1996 need to be updated to conform with Federal regulations.

  
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Charleston, West Virginia  
May 16, 1997

**APPENDIX B**

**FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULES**

**Rule Title:** Inspection of Meat and Poultry

**Type of Rule:**  **Legislative**     **Interpretive**     **Procedural**

**Agency** West Virginia Department of Agriculture

**Address** State Capitol  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard, East  
Charleston, WV 25305

**1. Effect of Proposed Rule**

	ANNUAL FISCAL YEAR				
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</b>	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>					
<b>REPAIRS &amp; ALTERNATIONS</b>					
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>					
<b>OTHER</b>					

**2. Explanation of above estimates:**

**3. Objectives of these rules:**

To update rules on inspection of meat and poultry in order to maintain our equal to status and continue federal funding

**Rule Title:** Inspection of Meat and Poultry

**4. Explanation of Overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.**

**A. Economic Impact on State Government.**

None

**B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific groups of Citizens.**

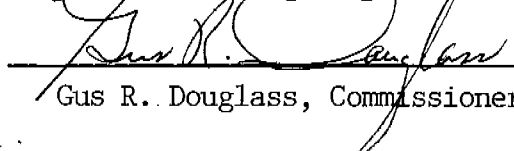
Minimal impact on State-inspected plants

**C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large.**

None

**Date:** May 16, 1997

**Signature of Agency Head or Authorized Representative**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gus R. Douglass, Commissioner

Contact Person:

Dr. W. J. Charminski, Director  
Meat and Poultry Inspection Division  
West Virginia Department of Agriculture  
Telephone: (304) 558-2206

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MAY 16 1 15 PM '97

OFFICE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE

**TITLE 61  
Legislative Rules  
Department of Agriculture**

**Series 16  
Inspection of Meat and Poultry**

**§61-16-1. General**

1.1. Scope - This rule is established in order to implement the requirements of West Virginia Code §19-2B-1 et seq. Inspection of Meat and Poultry, and to maintain and administer an effective State-Federal Cooperative Meat and Poultry Inspection Program in the State of West Virginia by establishing requirements which equal those imposed by the applicable provisions of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (34 Stat. 1260) as amended by the Wholesome Meat Act (81 Stat. 584, 84 Stat. 438, 92 Stat. 1069, U.S.C., Sec. 601 et seq.), and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (71 Stat. 441), as amended by the Wholesome Poultry Products Act (82 Stat. 791; U.S.C. 451 et seq.). This rule establishes general operating procedures, requirements and standards in the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division.

1.2. Authority - WV Code, §19-2B-3

1.3. Filing Date -

1.4. Effective Date -

1.5. Repeal of former rules - This rule repeals and replaces in their entirety Legislative Rules, Department of Agriculture, Series 16: Regulations Governing Meat Inspection 61CSR16, filed on April 11, 1991, and effective July 1, 1991.

**§61-16-2. Incorporation by Reference of Federal Meat and Poultry Inspection Regulations**

The Mandatory Meat Inspection Regulations (9 CFR, Parts 301 et seq.) and the Mandatory Poultry Products Inspection Regulations (9 CFR, Part 381) and Regulatory Requirements Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (9 CFR, Parts 416 and 417) of the United States Department of Agriculture, promulgated in the Federal Register prior to ~~January 1, 1995~~ June 1, 1997 are hereby adopted in their entirety with the exception of the deleted regulations specified in section 3 of this rule.

### §61-16-3. Deleted Regulations

The following sections of the Federal regulations governing the mandatory meat inspection (9 CFR, Part 301 et seq.) and the mandatory poultry products inspection (9 CFR, Part 381) of the United States Department of Agriculture incorporated by reference under section 2 of this rule are deleted and are not rules of the West Virginia Department of Agriculture: 302.2; 303.1 (c); 303.1 (d)(2)(l)(c); 304; 305.2 (b); 307.5; 307.6; 312; 316.12; 316.13 (c); 317.7; 317.9; 318.8; 321; 322; 327; 329.6; 329.7; 329.8; 329.9; 331; 335; 381.6; 381.10 (a)(2), (5), (6), and (7); 381.10 (b); 381.13 (b); 381.16; 381.17; 381.19 (a)(2); 381.30; 381.31; 381.38; 381.39; 381.96, 381.98, 381.104 through 381.112; 381.123 (b)(1) and (4); 381.179; 381.185; 381.186; 381.195 through 381.236

In 9CFR 381.10(a)(3) and (4) the words "and the statement `Exempt - P. L. 90-492'" are deleted.

In 9CFR 381.123(b)(2) and (4) the words "and accompanied by the prefix `P' are deleted".

### §61-16-4. Definitions

4.1. All terms used in this rule are those defined in WV Code 19-2B-2, except for the terms defined in this section.

4.2. Definitions in the incorporated parts of the Federal regulations on mandatory meat inspection (9 CFR, Part 301 et seq.) and mandatory poultry products inspection (9 CFR, Part 381) of the United States Department of Agriculture are amended to read as follows:

4.2.1. "The Act" means WV Code 19-2B-1 et seq.

4.2.2. "The United States Department of Agriculture" and "Department" means the West Virginia Department of Agriculture. For brevity, the acronym WVDA for the West Virginia Department of Agriculture is used in this rule.

4.2.3. "Secretary" means the Commissioner of Agriculture.

4.2.4. "Administrator", "Regional Director", and "Area Supervisor" mean the Director, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

4.2.5. "Federal Meat Inspection", "Program", "Federal Inspection", "Federal Poultry Inspection", "Meat and Poultry Inspection Program", "Inspection Service", "Standards and Labeling Division", "Meat and Poultry Inspection", "Technical Services", and "Agency" mean the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

**4.2.6.** "Federal" means State.

**4.2.7.** "Food Inspector", "Inspection Service Employee", "USDA Inspector", "USDA Program Official", and "Program Inspector" mean Inspector, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

**4.2.8.** "Inspection Service Supervisor", "Veterinary Inspector", and "Circuit Supervisor" mean Veterinary Supervisor, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

**4.2.9.** "Food Safety and Inspection Service" means the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

**4.2.10.** "USDA Inspection Legend" and "Official Inspection Legend" mean WVDA Inspection Legend.

**4.2.11.** "Federally Inspected and Passed", "U.S. Inspected and Passed", "U.S. Inspected for Wholesomeness", and "Federally Inspected for Wholesomeness" mean WVDA Inspected and Passed.

**4.2.12.** "U.S. Passed for Cooking" means WVDA Passed for Cooking.

**4.2.13.** "U.S. Passed for Refrigeration" means WVDA Passed for Refrigeration.

**4.2.14.** "U.S. Inspected and Condemned" means WVDA Inspected and Condemned.

**4.2.15.** "U.S. Retained" or "U.S. Detained" means WVDA Retained.

**4.2.16.** "U.S. Rejected" means WVDA Rejected.

**4.2.17.** "U.S. Suspect" means WVDA Suspect.

**4.2.18.** "U.S. Condemned" means WVDA Condemned.

**4.2.19.** "U.S. Government Seals" means WVDA Seals.

**4.3.** Whenever an official form, certificate, or seal is designated by Federal regulations, the appropriate WVDA form, certificate, or seal shall be substituted.

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**§61-16-5. The United States Department of Agriculture's Guidelines and Procedures Applicable to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture.**

The following publications prepared and approved by the United States Department of Agriculture are applicable to the West Virginia Department of Agriculture, as determined by the Commissioner of Agriculture:

- (1) "U.S. Inspected Meat and Poultry Packing Plants: A Guide to Construction and Layout", Agriculture Handbook 570;
- (2) "The Meat and Poultry Inspection Manual";
- (3) "Sanitation Handbook for Meat and Poultry Inspectors";
- (4) "Accepted Meat and Poultry Equipment" MPI-2;
- (5) "List of Proprietary Substances and Nonfood Compounds", Miscellaneous Publication Number 1419;
- (6) "Standards and Labeling Policy Book"; and
- (7) Food Safety and Inspection Service's Directives, Notices, and Bulletins.

**§61-16-6. Licensing**

**6.1.** Application for license and inspection - Every commercial slaughterer, custom slaughterer, commercial processor, custom processor, or distributor shall obtain a license from the Commissioner.

**6.1.1.** An applicant for a license shall make application on an official form furnished by the Commissioner and shall complete the application to include all information requested. Only the applicant named in the application may conduct operations at the establishment for which the license is granted.

**6.1.2.** The licensee shall apply for a new license when ownership or the location of the business changes.

**6.2.** Drawings and specification to be furnished.

**6.2.1.** Each applicant for the license shall submit to the Director, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division; WVDA;

**6.2.1.1.** Three (3) sets of complete drawings containing a plot plan showing the limits of the establishment's premises, locations in outline of buildings on the premises, cardinal points of the compass, and roads and railroads serving the establishment; the floor plans of the establishment for which inspection is requested, showing the locations of principal pieces of equipment, floor drains, principal drainage lines, handwashing basins and hose connections for cleanup purposes; and a room schedule showing the finish of walls, floors, and ceilings of all rooms in the establishments;

**6.2.1.2.** Three (3) sets of specifications which shall include statements, describing water supply, plumbing, drainage, refrigeration, equipment, lighting, and operations to be performed at the establishment; and

**6.2.1.3.** A current certificate from the local health authority certifying the water potability at the establishment and approval of the sewage disposal system of the establishment.

**§61-16-7. Official Inspection Marks and Devices.**

**7.1.** General - The inspection marks and devices, prescribed or referenced in this section are official marks and devices, for purposes of the WV Code, §19-2B-6 and shall be used in accordance with the provisions of this section and the United States Department of Agriculture regulations governing meat and poultry inspection as incorporated herein.

**7.2.** The inspection marks are affixed by the establishment under the oversight of the inspectors of the Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

**7.3.** Inspection legends on animal carcasses and parts of carcasses.

**7.3.1.** The inspection legend to identify WV inspected and passed animal carcasses, primal cuts, beef livers, beef tongues, beef hearts, and smoked meats not in casings and for application to materials that enclose carcasses or parts of carcasses, is as shown below in this subdivision. The establishment number shall be placed in the inspection legend by the establishment where the three zeros appear. The size of the inspection legend shall be 1-7/8"x2".

**7.3.2.** The inspection legend may be proportionally reduced in size, provided it shall not be smaller than 7/8"x1", for application to the loins and ribs of pork, beef tails, and sausages in animal casings.

**7.4.** Inspection legends on labels.

**7.4.1.** The inspection legend required to be shown on all labels for inspected and passed products of cattle, sheep, swine, goats, and poultry shall be in the form as shown in subdivision 7.3.1 of this rule, except that it need not be of the size illustrated, provided that it is of a sufficient size and of such color as to be conspicuously displayed and readily legible and the same proportions of letter size and boldness are maintained. The establishment number shall be placed in the inspection legend where the three zeros appear, and it may be preceded by the abbreviation "EST."

**7.4.2.** The inspection legend shall be applied on labels by mechanical means and shall not be applied by a hand stamp.

**7.4.3.** The inspection legend described in subdivision 7.3.1 of this section may also be used on shipping containers, band labels, artificial casings, and other articles with the approval of the Director, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA.

**7.5.** Any brand, stamp, label, or other device approved by the Director, Meat and Poultry Inspection Division, WVDA, and bearing any inspection legend presented in this section is an official device for purposes of the WV Code §19-2B-6.

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**7.6.** Custom stamps and devices to identify custom slaughtered animals or custom prepared product.

**7.6.1.** An establishment licensed for custom slaughter, custom processing operations, or both shall identify all custom carcasses, carcass parts, and custom meats with:

**7.6.1.1.** A custom stamp as provided for in subdivision 7.6.2 of this rule and a custom stamp with the words "NOT FOR SALE" in uppercase letters at least 3/8" in height applied to the animal carcass immediately after slaughter;

**7.6.1.2.** A custom stamp with the words "NOT FOR SALE" in uppercase letters at least 3/8" in height applied immediately upon receipt of a carcass or carcass parts which were slaughtered at a location other than the receiving licensed establishment;

**7.6.1.3.** A tag made from a material that is nontoxic and waterproof, that identifies the name of the owner or a number which identifies the owner of the meat, which must be placed on the carcass immediately after slaughter or on the carcass or carcass parts upon receipt. The tag may be omitted if the identification number is legibly applied directly on the meat or poultry by an approved marking pencil;

**7.6.1.4.** A stamp or legible printing or pressure sensitive tape with the words "NOT FOR SALE" in uppercase letters at least 3/8" in height on all custom wrapped or packaged meats or poultry immediately after final preparation. All custom meat or poultry must remain so identified while on the establishment's premises; and

**7.6.1.5.** A stamp, legible printing or pressure sensitive tape or tag attached with the words "NOT FOR SALE" in uppercase letters at least 3/8" in height on closed containers when utilized for packing unwrapped, wrapped, or packaged custom meats or poultry. All custom meat or poultry must remain so identified immediately after packing the containers and while on the establishment's premises.

**7.6.2.** The official custom stamp (brass faced) required to identify animal carcasses or parts of carcasses resulting from custom establishment slaughter is as shown in this subdivision. The size of the stamp shall be 2"X2" with uppercase letters 3/8" in height.

**§61-16-8. Overtime and Holiday Inspection Service.**

**8.1.** The management of a licensed establishment shall reimburse WVDA for the cost of inspection service furnished on any holiday as specified in subsection 8.3 of this Section, or for providing inspection services for more than eight (8) hours on any day or more than forty (40) hours in any administrative workweek, Saturday through Friday.

**8.2.** When a licensed establishment requires an inspection service on a holiday or for more than eight (8) hours on any other day, it shall request the veterinary supervisor to furnish inspection during that period. The request shall be made at least seven (7) days before the holiday and at least two (2) days in advance of planned overtime.

**8.3.** Holidays are those specified in West Virginia Code §2-2-1.

**8.4.** The Commissioner shall determine from time to time the rate for overtime and holiday services.