

**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES  
MEAT SAFETY ASSURANCE  
AUSTIN, TEXAS**

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<h1 style="margin:0;">MSA DIRECTIVE</h1>	6090.1	07/24/19
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**FIREARMS SAFETY IN OFFICIAL LIVESTOCK ESTABLISHMENTS**

**I. PURPOSE**

This directive provides safety procedures for inspection program personnel (IPP) to follow when firearms are used in official establishments to render animals immediately unconscious. This directive establishes a safe location that provides protection from a ricocheting bullet or bullet fragments as agreed upon by the establishment and the Inspector-in-Charge (IIC).

**II. BACKGROUND**

A. As set out in [9 CFR 313.16](#), firearms may be used by non-inspection personnel to produce immediate unconsciousness in the animal by a single shot before it is shackled, hoisted, thrown, cast, or cut. As is stated in these regulations, aiming and discharging of firearms is to be directed away from operating areas.

B. Per requirements found in [29 CFR 1910.132](#), MSA is required to assess the workplace to determine whether hazards are present. When a hazard has been identified, MSA is required to provide personal protective equipment, or, if that solution is not practical, reduce or remove the exposure through other means. In accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) [General Duty Clause 5\(a\)\(1\)](#), each employer shall furnish to each of his or her employees a workplace that is free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his or her employees.

C. MSA has elected to implement the procedures in this directive specifically to remove the inspector from the area when firearms are used to ensure their safety.

**III. PROCEDURES**

A. Following receipt of this directive, at establishments where establishment employees use firearms to render animals immediately unconscious, the IIC, in coordination with IPP at the establishment, are to discuss with the establishment management at the next weekly meeting how IPP will be notified and provided time to move to a safe location before the firearm is discharged and how employees will be notified that it is safe to leave that location.

B. The IIC is to document the meeting in a memorandum of interview (MOI) to be shared with all MSA employees and the establishment management.

C. A copy of the completed MOI is to be posted in the inspection office to ensure new relief IPP have ready access to the MOI and are aware of the safe location.

D. If IPP have questions or concerns regarding firearms safety, they are to immediately notify their chain of command of the issue and seek guidance to meet and resolve the concern.

#### **IV. QUESTIONS**

Refer questions through supervisory channels.



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