



ALEXANDRIA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, FACPM
Health Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council
FROM: Stephen A. Haering, MD, MPH, FACPM, Director, Alexandria Health Department (AHD)
Rachel Stradling, BSc, JD, MCIEH, CP-FS, REHS, Environmental Health Manager, AHD
DATE: March 22, 2019
SUBJECT: SUP 2018-00117 Health Department Response

This memo is to provide information on the State requirements for regulation and inspection of Poultry Slaughterhouses and any associated public health impacts.

Regulation:

In conjunction with the USDA, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) is the regulating authority for the slaughter of poultry within the State of Virginia. How a slaughterhouse is regulated depends significantly on the number of birds slaughtered and the ownership of the birds. Alexandria Health Department has made numerous calls to VDACS to determine how such a facility would be regulated in the City of Alexandria. From the information provided by the applicant, it is VDACS's belief that the facility would qualify for an exemption from bird-by-bird inspection due to the number of birds that the applicant proposes to process.

An exempt facility is inspected upon opening and then periodically to ensure ongoing compliance with sanitation requirements. On discussion with VDACS there is no set time frame for these inspections, but it would be anticipated that they would be annual or biennially in nature.

The number of birds processed is self-reported by the slaughterhouse, and the slaughterhouse is responsible for ensuring that they do not process more than the 20,000 birds allowed annually.

If they fail to qualify for a bird-by-bird inspection exemption, VDACS stated that there would be an inspector monitoring the plant during all hours of operation to conduct a bird-by-bird inspections. The cost of this inspection was not provided by the VDACS representative spoken to, as they were located in a different locality.

We understand, from the applicant, that the chickens are raised on their farm outside of Virginia. Virginia State requires that all poultry entering into Virginia must be tested negative for Pullorum-typhoid within 30 days prior to entry or be a participant of the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPPI). Additionally, adult poultry as in this case, must also be tested negative for Avian Influenza within 14 days of movement into Virginia, regardless of NPPI status. Additional import requirements exist including the need to obtain import approval and Veterinary Inspection.

Public Health Concerns:

The Alexandria Health Department has consulted with the State's Public Health Veterinarian. Based on the information provided by the applicant and the regulations regarding the movement of poultry from out of state, the Public Health Veterinarian could identify no public health concerns to residents or their pets from the approval of the chicken slaughterhouse.

Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns not addressed in this memo.