

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

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<b>MSA NOTICE</b>	12-18	2/26/2018
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**INSTRUCTIONS FOR KIDNEY DISPOSITIONS IN POULTRY CARCASSES**

**I. PURPOSE**

This notice announces that MSA is updating instructions to inspection program personnel (IPP) for kidney dispositions in poultry carcasses at slaughter establishments. The instructions in this notice replace the poultry kidney disposition criteria set out in MSA Directive 6100.3, *Ante-Mortem and Post-Mortem Poultry Inspection*, Section IX. H. The new kidney disposition criteria are to be applied upon receipt of this notice and following correlation by the supervisor with IPP performing poultry slaughter inspection duties.

**II. BACKGROUND**

Historical carcass and visceral organ disposition guidance was based principally on an abundance of caution associated with quality concerns and poultry physiology. A less restrictive approach to organoleptic post-mortem inspection of carcasses and visceral organs is now advantageous to remain current with inspection methods that focus on food safety. Final disposition of poultry carcasses and visceral organs with diseases and conditions is to be based on grossly visible lesions that IPP (and establishment sorters) can observe. While microscopic findings derived from histopathology can provide additional information on flock conditions, a final disposition on carcasses and visceral organs is usually not to be based exclusively on these laboratory reports when they are available. When necessary, the Circuit Manager Veterinarian (CMV) combines the organoleptic inspection information with available laboratory information in making a diagnosis and disposition.

**III. AWARENESS MEETING WITH PLANT MANAGEMENT**

Upon receipt of this notice, the IPP is to have an awareness meeting with plant management to inform them that there are new kidney disposition criteria that are effective immediately.

**IV. POULTRY KIDNEY DISPOSITIONS**

A. Upon receipt of this notice, IPP who are assigned to poultry slaughter establishments are to review the modified instructions below.

B. IPP are to condemn kidneys (9 CFR 381.78(a)) when:

1. Renal (kidney) pathology is present; or
2. Airsacculitis is present specifically in the abdominal air sac membranes making the kidneys an affected tissue, and the posterior (back) part of the carcass is salvaged for airsacculitis per 9 CFR 381.84.

**NOTE:** Hepatic (liver) or splenic (spleen) pathology which is determined by IPP to be localized and visibly limited to the affected organ require only the affected visceral organ to be condemned. Localized pathology of the liver or spleen does not require simultaneous condemnation of the kidneys unless the kidneys are also affected by visible pathological changes.

C. IPP are to instruct the “inspector’s helper” to mark the birds for removal of the kidneys. IPP are to verify removal of the kidneys by the establishment.

D. When necessary, IPP are to hang back carcasses for further examination by a CMV per 9 CFR 381.77. The CMV is to correlate with IPP and plant management if flock disposition or establishment sorting activity concerns exist.

#### **V. QUESTIONS**

Refer questions through supervisory channels.



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