



A letter of Introduction to the revised Standards for Slaughter without Stunning (Revised based on consultation)

This document is to accompany the revised version of the Standards for Slaughter without Stunning. The Standards were revised based on comments gathered in the internal and public consultation periods. The revisions were primarily to address issues of clarity, no significant changes to the requirements and recommendations occurred.

Although the scope of the Standards was clearly declared within the document and the consultation process as:

- *“This document **includes** guidance on restraint, neck cutting and post cutting management.*
- *This document **does not include** changes to existing, applicable provincial/federal regulations or legislation.”*

several comments were made that the working group felt should be acknowledged. These comments were clearly outside the scope of the Standards for Slaughter without Stunning, but were felt to be important considerations.

1. Worker safety

Worker safety comes under the jurisdiction of the regulatory body for the plant. The working group agrees that this clearly is an important area in all plants.

2. Covering costs of adopting standards – assistance programs

Assistance programs for adopting the Standards would certainly aid in rapid implementation and compliance. It is hoped that these may be considered within each jurisdiction embracing the Standards.

3. Audits

Audits of plants to confirm compliance supports credibility and responsibility for outcomes. Exactly who should carry out audits and what range of audits is required (e.g. establishment audits, third party audits) was a discussion that took place in the working group. As audits are out of scope this is not reflected in the document. Regulatory jurisdictions will determine if third party audits are required and exactly what defines a third party.

4. Labelling

Clarity and transparency in labelling is recognized as an important issue. The working group supports clearly labelling product to distinguish between products derived from animals made from Slaughter with or without Stunning.

5. Identify who owns the document

The working group fully supports the Council of Chief Veterinarians of Canada (CCVO) as the owners of this document and identifies them as the body to insure the document remains relevant and up to date. It is suggested that the National Farm Animal Health and Welfare Council could be requested to post the document to their website as the CCVO does not currently have a website.