

# **'Auditor Guidelines for Conducting the NTF Turkey Slaughter Animal Care Audit Checklist**

## **I. Definitions:**

- a. Auditor: Person(s) performing the audit
- b. Auditee: Company being audited
- c. Audit Sponsor: Organization that owns the audit tool and is responsible for revisions and clarification.
- d. Audit Customer: The company/organization that is requiring the auditee to be audited.

**II. Pre-audit communication** between the auditor and auditee is mandatory to reduce confusion and potential conflict during the audit. This can be done electronically or by phone. Err on the side of over communication. If there are multiple locations, the auditor must ensure that all facility managers are informed of the audit plan. If a complex or company-wide audit is to be completed, it should be agreed to during the pre-audit discussion on how the whole audit score will be determined (Example: Multiple grow-out facility scores will be averaged to get one grow-out score for the complex). Depending on the scope of the required audit, the slaughter audit may be combined with the Loading and Transport audit, and/or with the live production audit. The audit sponsor, auditee, and the auditor must agree on which audits are to be used during the pre-audit communications.

**III. Auditor Expectations.** It is assumed that an auditor will have a basic knowledge of turkey processing. The welfare of the animal is the first priority.

## **Audit Tool Guidance for Specific Criteria:**

- I. Personnel involved with overseeing and/or handling of turkeys at the slaughter plant are to be trained annually in good processing plant welfare practices.
- II. Annual training is generally meant to mean once each calendar year.
- III. The plant must have a written SOP for the holding area. This must include an identified position or person responsible for the welfare of turkeys in this area. There should also be guidelines for conditions and temperatures for when fans or misters are to be turned on and off, of other methods of ensuring bird well-being. Monitoring records must be available. Ultimately, the turkeys on the trailers must appear comfortable and not in distress.
- IV. Signs of distress: Panting is the natural way that turkeys cool themselves, and is not necessarily a sign of distress or harm.

- V. Unstunned birds: Some establishments employ systems that stun birds prior to shackling. If a plant employs such a system, do not score "Unstunned bird shackling" section.
- VI. When evaluating broken wings the auditor is to examine the wings closely. Broken wings means broken bone or dislocated joint. A hanging wing by itself is not acceptable criteria due to variations that exist.
- VII. No live birds in the DOA container does not include a pen or other transitional conveyance that temporarily holds the birds until they are either put back on the line or euthanized. It is only for the final disposal container.