



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AND CONSUMER SERVICES  
MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION DIVISION  
Raleigh, North Carolina**

*Steve Troxler, Commissioner*

<b>MPID NOTICE</b>	<b>9-09</b>	<b>07-22-09</b>
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**Inspection Requirements for Meat and Poultry Businesses**

**I. PURPOSE**

This notice provides inspection information for consumers and current and potential business owners.

**II. REFERENCES**

Federal Meat Inspection Act; Federal Poultry Products Inspection Act; 9 CFR Parts 300 to 500; N.C. Compulsory Meat Inspection Law (Articles 49B, 49C and 49H – G.S. 106-549.15-39, 97,98); N.C. Poultry Products Inspection Law (Article 49D – G.S. 106.549.49-69).

**III. CANCELLATION**

MPID Notice 3-09 dated 1-21-09

**IV. PROCEDURE**

The following chart lists the type of inspection required for common business dealings in the meat and poultry industry.

Business Activity	Agency Providing Inspection	Minimum Inspection Required
Slaughter Meat Animals for sale to the public (wholesale or retail)	Department of Agriculture	Compulsory Meat & Poultry Inspection
Slaughter or process meat/poultry for the general public for personal consumption only.	Department of Agriculture	Custom Exempt Inspection

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Agency Providing Inspection</b>	<b>Minimum Inspection Required</b>
Process Canned Meat and Poultry products for sale to the public (wholesale or retail)	Department of Agriculture (USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service)	Compulsory Meat & Poultry Inspection
Process Meat and/or Poultry products and transport to another location for sale to the general public	Department of Agriculture Or County Health Department Inspection may also apply if sold directly to consumers	Compulsory Meat & Poultry Inspection Or County Health Department
Process limited Meat and/or Poultry products for wholesale sales to Hotels, Restaurants and Institutions (HRI). Note: Not all meat and/or poultry products are eligible for HRI sales.	County Health Dept. - current dollar limitations apply / percentage of total wholesale sales limited (not to exceed 25% of all retail sales) – accurate and legible record keeping required	County Health Department
Process Meat and/or Poultry products for unlimited wholesale and/or retail sales	Department of Agriculture	Compulsory Meat & Poultry Inspection
Process Meat and/or Poultry products for sale via the internet	Department of Agriculture Or County Health Department Inspection may also apply if sold directly to consumers	Compulsory Meat & Poultry Inspection Or County Health Department
Conduct Door to Door sales of fully packaged, marked and labeled meat and poultry products	Department of Agriculture	Meat Handler's Registration
Store and /or transport fully packaged, marked and labeled meat and poultry products for wholesale or retail sales	Department of Agriculture	Meat Handler's Registration
Transport live animals to an inspected slaughter / processing facility, pick up fully packaged, marked and labeled meat & poultry products and sale to the general public	Department of Agriculture	Meat Handler's Registration
Sell live animal to customer. Transport live animal for customer to inspected slaughter / processing facility. Customer picks up packaged & labeled meat / poultry products from the slaughtering/processing facility	No inspection required	

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Agency Providing Inspection</b>	<b>Minimum Inspection Required</b>
Sell live animal to customer. Provide location, facility or services for the slaughter of the animal on your farm / premises, or slaughter animal for the customer on your farm	This activity is in violation of the N.C. Compulsory Meat Inspection Law and/or the N.C. Poultry Products Inspection Law and is not permitted.	Letters of warning, civil penalties and/or criminal prosecution could result. Compulsory Meat and/or Poultry Inspection required
Slaughter animals of your own raising for your own personal use, members of your household and non-paying guests	No inspection required	
Process inspected meat & poultry products (with the exception of retort processing) for on-site retail sales to the general public	County Health Department	County Health Inspection
Restaurant / Catering Activities	County Health Department - Such as meals or entrée's sold directly to individual consumers – cannot sell to a individual and/or company for re-sale to the public	County Health Inspection
Sell prepared meat and poultry products via mobile food trailers to the general public	County Health Department - Such as meals or entrée's sold directly to individual consumers	County Health Inspection
Receive fully packaged, marked and labeled meat and poultry products and offer them for retail sale at your store without opening packages or further processing any products.	No inspection required	
Slaughter and / or process up to 1,000 poultry per calendar year of your OWN RAISING, on your own farm, for sale to the general public and/or intrastate commerce only.	No inspection required. Accurate and legible slaughter and sales records must be kept to prove to Department of Agriculture Officials that the poultry limit is not exceeded.	Adulteration provisions of the act apply. Handling statement such as "Keep Refrigerated" or "Keep Frozen" recommended on poultry products sold in intrastate commerce.

<b>Business Activity</b>	<b>Agency Providing Inspection</b>	<b>Minimum Inspection Required</b>
Slaughter and /or process greater than 1,000 but no more than 20,000 poultry per calendar year.	Three possible exemptions fall in this category. Exemption “criteria requirements” different for each exemption. Can only operate under one exemption per calendar year, including the retail store exemption.	Intrastate commerce only. Adulteration provisions of the act apply. Special labeling requirements apply depending on the exemption.
Exceed slaughter limit of 20,000 poultry per calendar year.	Department of Agriculture (USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service)	Compulsory Meat and Poultry Inspection

**Mr. Donald H. Delozier**  
**State Director**

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**DISTRIBUTION:**  
MPID In-Plant and Supervisory Personnel;  
NCDENR; NC Cooperative Extension

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**SUBJECT CATEGORY:**  
Compliance