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Mr. Henry S. Dorfman, President  
and Chairman of the Board  
Frederick & Herrud, Inc.  
1487 Farnsworth  
Detroit, MI 48211

Dear Mr. Dorfman:

This is in response to your letter of May 2, 1975, requesting approval for killing time extensions beyond 10 hours per day.

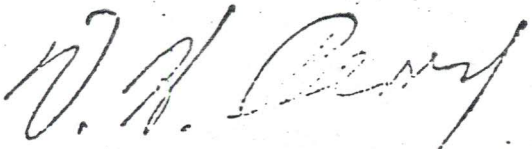
Our policy to limit duty time to 10 hours for post-mortem inspectors is based on effective use of inspection personnel. Post-mortem inspection, particularly in high speed operations, is quite demanding both physically and mentally. It has been our experience that due to long hours and the demanding inspection procedures, the fatigue and strain on the inspectors diminish their effectiveness. Because of our concern for the welfare and the effective performance of our employees, we believe it extremely important not to compromise our 10-hour limitation.

We recognize that occasionally emergencies do occur, and our regional directors have been authorized to grant exceptions for cases of true emergency. An emergency is interpreted as being major equipment failures, usually of 30 minutes or longer duration, and unusual situations caused by weather conditions or other acts of God. Under no circumstances are they to extend the 10-hour limitation as a standard operating day.

We would not consider "late arrival" of hogs on Fridays to be an emergency per se. However, we understand that sometimes this situation is unavoidable and that under extreme weather conditions holding hogs over until Monday could result in death of these animals. Depending on the factors involved, this could be considered as an emergency, but we feel such cases must be handled on an individual basis. The regional director or his designee has sufficient authority to grant exceptions when an emergency is deemed to exist.

Henry, I hope this letter as well as our recent discussion helps to clarify our policy on extended slaughter hours.

Sincerely,



V. H. Berry  
Assistant Deputy Administrator  
Field Operations  
Meat and Poultry Inspection Program

For Plant  
Files -  
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cc: Dr. Burkert, Director HC ✓