

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch**

**Guidelines for Licensed Mobile Slaughter Operators, Registered Livestock Producers,
and Registered Custom Exempt Processors**

The purpose of these guidelines is to provide practical application and clarity of regulations related to on-farm slaughtering of livestock. These guidelines encompass MPES licensed Mobile Slaughter Operators (MSOs), MPES Registered Livestock Producers (RLPs), and MPES Registered Custom Exempt (CE) Processors in California who are desirous of utilizing the slaughter exemptions pursuant to Food and Agricultural Code (FAC) Section 19020 Exemption where Assembly Bill (AB) 888 was chaptered.

These guidelines are not meant to be all-inclusive; they are intended to be used as a guide for compliance with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Food Safety and Inspection Services (FSIS) and California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety Branch (MPES) regulatory requirements. In addition, these guidelines are intended to provide MSOs, CE Processors, and RLPs in California a better understanding of this exemption and its intended benefit to local ranchers and farmers by being able to sell their livestock directly to consumers thus expanding the local meat supply.

As each county and city may have its own regulations and restrictions concerning MSOs and on-farm slaughtering of livestock, it is important that every involved and concerned individual check with their local authorities for any additional requirements.

On-Farm Slaughter of Livestock

Effective January 1, 2022, California regulations allow for multiple livestock purchased by multiple owners from a Livestock producer to be slaughtered on the livestock producer's premises for the new owners of the livestock, provided that certain specified general conditions are met:

- The slaughter must be conducted by a Meat, Poultry and Egg Safety (MPES) licensed Mobile Slaughter Operator (MSO)
- The MSO operator must also be a (MPES) licensed Livestock Meat Inspector (LMI) and abide by all duties and responsibilities of an LMI
- The Livestock Producer and all premises where the slaughter occurs must be registered with MPES
- The CE destination for processing of the carcasses by the MSO, if utilized, must be registered with MPES
- The meat and all byproducts are "Not for Sale".

For additional requirements, refer to Food and Agricultural Code, Sections 19020-19023.

MPES Registered Livestock Producer

- The RLP is to maintain specified records related to the slaughter activities
- The RLP is to ensure that before the slaughter of cattle on their premises that the cattle are inspected pursuant to Section 21051 (CDFA-Brand Inspection by the Bureau of Livestock Identification)

MPES Licensed Mobile Slaughter Operator (MSO)

- The MSO will humanely handle all livestock destined for slaughter
- The MSO will slaughter all livestock by a humane slaughter method
- The MSO will maintain specified records associated with the livestock slaughter activities performed on a RLP premises
- After the slaughter, the carcass(es) will be marked using an approved MPES method by the MSO
- The marked carcass(es) is transported for the owner(s) by the MSO to an establishment for further processing

MPES Registered Custom Exempt (CE) “Cut and Wrap”

- Facility is registered with MPES
- Facility obtains a valid MPES issued Inedible Permit
- Facility is reviewed by USDA Compliance and Investigation Division (CID) for compliance with USDA regulatory CE requirements

Additional supportive requirements where the slaughter activity is conducted shall have adequate solid waste disposal, livestock holding and restraining equipment and potable water if used.

- Solid waste may be transported off-site or disposed of in accordance with local ordinances
- Holding Pens may be portable
- Restraining equipment (holding chutes) may be portable
- Acceptable and approved sanitation methods may be used in lieu of potable water

There are no regulatory restrictions on how many owners may own individual livestock. A MPES Registered Livestock Producer may sell individual livestock to multiple owners but the owners' names and relevant information must be recorded to ensure compliance with regulatory restrictions concerning the “NOT FOR SALE” and the personal consumption of the meat from MSO on-farm slaughter of livestock.

Application forms are available on the MPES website and at the links below:

Livestock Producer Registration Form 79-021A
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/MPES/pdfs/79-021A_Application_for_Livestock_Producer_Registration.pdf

Mobile Slaughter Operation License For 79-021B
https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/AHFSS/MPES/pdfs/79-021B_Application_for_Mobile_Slaughter_Operation.pdf

Livestock Meat Inspector Application Form 79-008A
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/MPES/pdfs/79-008A.pdf>

Exempt Meat Establishment Registration Form 79-001A
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/MPES/pdfs/79-001A.pdf>

Inedible Permit Form 79-016A
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/MPES/pdfs/79-016A.pdf>

TIM Registration Form 79-015A
<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/MPES/pdfs/79-015A.pdf>