



**SUBJECT:** Guidelines for Emergency On-Farm Slaughter of Bovines Pursuant to the BC Meat Inspection Regulation

**APPLICATION:**

This Guideline applies to exceptional circumstances that warrant consideration of emergency on-farm slaughter of bovines (including bison) where transportation of the live animal is either considered inhumane or is a significant danger to people and equipment due to size and/or unruly behaviour.

**RATIONALE:**

Emergency situations can arise on-farm where the transportation of live bovines (including bison) constitutes inhumane treatment to the animal as per federal legislation, or a significant hazard to humans and equipment. In these exceptional circumstances it is desirable to have the animal slaughtered under the supervision of a veterinarian, bled and then transport the intact carcass to an abattoir where it is eviscerated and a post mortem inspection is undertaken by an inspector.

**PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS:**

In exceptional circumstances the Inspector in Charge may allow a bovine carcass to be received at an abattoir if the inspector is satisfied that the transport of the live animal would be inhumane and/or result in an unacceptable safety hazard to humans or equipment. The following protocols will be followed in making the determination as to whether the carcass will be accepted and the necessary associated documentation.

1. Acceptance of a carcass must be pre approved - carcasses cannot be accepted without prior notification by a producer of their intent to ship the carcass, and approval by both the plant operator and the Inspector in Charge that the situation warrants emergency on farm slaughter.
2. The slaughter of an animal on-farm must be supervised by a veterinarian, preferably one accredited by the CFIA. In situations where an accredited veterinarian is not available a veterinarian holding a valid license can be utilized. All veterinary costs associated with the slaughter of the animal on farm must be borne by the producer.

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3. The supervising veterinarian must provide written documentation of the reasons and conditions of slaughter as per BCCDC form "Documentation for Approved Emergency On-Farm Slaughter", including.
  - confirmation that in the Veterinarian's opinion the transport of the animal would be inhumane and/or constitute a significant safety hazard to humans and equipment.
  - an ante mortem inspection confirming the health of the animal before slaughter.
  - confirmation of the method of slaughter and that it was undertaken humanely.
  - the date and time of slaughter, the time before and after bleeding, and time the intact carcass (including head and viscera) was loaded and shipped from the farm.
  - the estimated age of the animal in order to identify as either UTM or OTM.
4. The plant operator and inspector must be notified immediately upon arrival of the carcass at the abattoir. The maximum time from slaughter to arrival of the carcass at the abattoir will be determined based on each circumstance (see NOTE below), however will not normally exceed 2 hours. Carcasses must be eviscerated and post mortem inspection under taken immediately upon arrival at the abattoir.

NOTE: Shorter delivery times may be specified dependent on delivery method (e.g. no refrigeration), the ante mortem health status of the animal and weather conditions. Shipment during warm weather may necessitate shipping times as short as 30-45 minutes.
5. Final disposition of the carcass will be based on the combined ante mortem and organoleptic findings at post mortem. A Veterinary Inspector may also be called upon to evaluate a suspect carcass.

Approved carcasses will be marked with the BC Inspection Logo stamp and are approved to be sold in BC as an inspected meat product.
6. Approval under this protocol does not convey other necessary approvals such as SRM permitting responsibilities. The SRM transportation permit is the responsibility of the owner of the animal who will be transporting the carcass to the slaughter establishment. The SRM harvesting permit is the responsibility of the operator of the slaughter establishment that receives the carcass. Both permits can be obtained by calling 1-800-442-2342.