



Water Systems For Class D & E Slaughter Establishments and Other Unregulated Uses

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Ministry of Health

1. Purpose

To clarify the circumstances when a domestic water system serving one single family dwelling and used for other purposes is not regulated as a water supply system under the [Drinking Water Protection Act](#) (DWPA).

2. Position

The use of water supplied by a domestic water system to one single family dwelling, for a purpose that does not come within the definition of “domestic purposes,” as defined in the DWPA, does not require the system to be regulated as a water supply system under the DWPA.

3. Application

There are many uses to which water supplied by a domestic water system to one single family dwelling may be put which will not change the status of the water system and require it to meet the requirements under the DWPA. One of these is the use of water in the slaughtering process by the holders of Class D or E licences issued under the Meat Inspection Regulation. Water used in Class D and E slaughter facilities is regulated under the [Food Safety Act](#) (FSA), [Meat Inspection Regulation](#), which requires that it be potable. In determining whether or not the water is potable, an Environmental Health Officer may rely upon those water quality standards which are in common use in the field of public health protection.

Other uses of water which are not domestic in nature could include:

- watering animals;
- irrigating crops;

- washing buildings or machinery;
- cooling machinery; and
- industrial uses.

Examples of uses which could change the status of a water system so that it is to be regulated as a water supply system are:

- supplying water to a second dwelling; or
- supplying water to a food service establishment where food was being prepared and the water is likely consumed directly by the public

4. Questions and Answers

- Q. Is a slaughter establishment a food establishment, as defined in the FSA?
- A. Yes, a slaughter establishment is a food establishment for the purposes of the FSA, with the result that inspectors appointed under the FSA are authorized to inspect and take action with respect to slaughter establishments.
- Q. Does the fact that slaughter establishments are food establishments for the purposes of the FSA mean that the [Public Health Act Food Premises Regulation](#) applies to them?
- A. No. The Public Health Act Food Premises Regulation applies to food premises, as defined in the Food Premises Regulation. The FSA and the Meat Inspection Regulation apply to slaughter establishments.
- Q. Must the water for a Class D or E slaughter establishment come from a water supply system for which the water supplier holds a valid operating permit issued in accordance with the DWPA?
- A. No. The only requirement for water used during slaughter in a Class D or E slaughter establishment is that the water must be potable.
- Q. If a Class D or E slaughter establishment is supplied with water by a domestic water system that serves only one single family residence, and the slaughter establishment has a separate sink and toilet for the use of the people working in the slaughter establishment, does this change the status of the water system into a water supply system regulated under the DWPA?
- A. An argument could be made that the existence of a separate toilet and sink for sanitation purposes would attract the application of the DWPA. The Health Protection Branch suggests that the Drinking Water Officers assess this situation in the same way they do those where separate sanitation facilities are provided in out buildings on agricultural property, which is supplied by a domestic water system serving one single family residence. A similar situation would be an auto body shop with a separate toilet and sink, where the water for the shop is supplied by a single domestic dwelling; this would not be considered a water system under the DWPA.

- Q. Must the water used in the slaughtering process be potable?
- A. Yes. This refers to the water actually used in the process, not the source water from which it is drawn. Secondary treatment of water that is used (with bleach for example) may be all that is required if there are ongoing concerns with the source water.
- Q. Could the standards set out in Schedule A to the Drinking Water Protection Regulation be used as the standard for measuring the potability of water used in the slaughtering process?
- A. Yes, as could the standards set out in the Meat Inspection Regulation Class D and E Licensing Policy and Procedures Manual.