

BRITISH COLUMBIA FARM INDUSTRY REVIEW BOARD

PRACTICE DIRECTIVE: *FARM PRACTICES PROTECTION (RIGHT TO FARM) ACT*

The British Columbia Farm Industry Review Board (BCFIRB) issues these practice directives respecting complaints to BCFIRB. These directives are consistent with the *Administrative Tribunals Act* (section 12) and cover two time periods, the usual time period from filing to the hearing of the complaint and the usual time period from the close of the hearing to decision:

1. The usual time period for BCFIRB to complete the required pre-hearing procedural steps and hold a one day hearing is 45 business days from the date that BCFIRB receives a completed Notice of Complaint and prescribed filing fee.
2. The usual time period for BCFIRB to issue its final decision and reasons following a one day hearing or an equivalent written submissions process is 35 business days.
3. The usual time periods identified in paragraphs “1” and “2” are extended by 25 business days for each day or part of a day that a hearing (including any written closing arguments) proceeds beyond one day.
4. The calculation of the usual time period in paragraph 1 is suspended, if BCFIRB decides to
 - a. defer setting the hearing date to accommodate a party or parties;
 - b. adjourn the hearing if one or more parties apply for an adjournment to participate in an facilitated settlement process and the calculation of time resumes at the end of the period of time set for the deferral or adjournment.
5. Circumstances will arise (e.g. where there are multiple complaints) where it is impractical or unjust to complete a matter within the usual time period. In such cases, BCFIRB will on a case by case basis establish time periods which are as short as possible consistent with the realities of the case.

Dated: December 17, 2015 at Victoria, British Columbia



John Les, Chair
British Columbia
Farm Industry Review Board