

FARM PRACTICE

TRANSPORTATION

Description

The ability to transport goods and equipment on public roads is essential for all farm operations. Goods and equipment may be transported by trucks, trains, ships, or airplanes. Overland transportation by truck is the most common.

Transportation activities associated with the business of farming are needed for the movement of:

- materials and supplies such as feed, bedding, fertilizer, seed, plant materials, pest control products, and fuel
- farm products such as fruit, vegetables, hay, feed, processed or unprocessed farm goods, live animals, birds and plants
- wastes such as compost, manure, spent plant material and growing media, mortalities, plastics, and spoiled feed
- people, including employees, contract workers, farm supply representatives, service providers and customers
- equipment

Nuisance Concerns

The three main disturbances referred to in the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* are odour, noise and dust. Of particular concern in the context of transportation activities is noise.

Noise

Farmers engage in a variety of activities that require the use of transportation vehicles and equipment which generate noise. Noise is defined as any sound that is audible but judged to be an unwanted, irregular or erratic disturbance. Noise levels vary and may rise when equipment is run at higher speeds. Noise may be generated continuously or intermittently.

See also Nuisance Reference: [Noise](#)

Activities and Operations

Livestock Trucking

The movement of livestock may require the loading and unloading of livestock at the farm site, transportation to and from the farm site, and the herding of livestock on public or private roads. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has a cattle drive policy whereby a permit is required to

move cattle on foot on public roads and highways. When transporting livestock by motor vehicle, farmers are required to observe the standards set out in the *Motor Vehicle Act* and the *Passenger Transportation Act*, in addition to recommended codes of practice for the care and handling of animals for various classes of livestock. The *Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation* includes valuable specific information on vehicles, containers, equipment, loading, unloading, space requirements, and special precautions to consider for varying weather conditions.

Farm operations, including livestock and poultry loading and transportation, may occur at any time of the day or night. All equipment should be well maintained and motor vehicles and tractors should be equipped with good engine mufflers. Transportation activities should be timed to occur as much as possible during regular working hours. Facilities at which loading and unloading operations for livestock and product occur should be located to minimize disturbances. If possible, buffers should be installed to provide noise attenuation. Farmers should take measures to prevent debris and waste from being deposited on public roadways.

See also Farm Practices: [Animal Care and Handling](#)
[Mobile Equipment](#)

Public Road Use

Farm transportation activities include the use of motorized equipment on public roadways and on private roads associated with the farm property itself. Farmers using public roadways must comply with existing legislation, regulations and bylaws. Provisions within legislation address the licensing of farm vehicles, lighting and marking, securement of loads, safety of trailers and trailer hitches, and requirements concerning oversize and slow-moving vehicles. On private property, safety and general considerations of neighbors are primary concerns.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has a cattle drive policy which requires a permit to be issued to allow cattle to be moved on foot on public roads and highways.

Spills

The *Spill Reporting Regulation* under the *Environmental Management Act* prescribes the minimum quantities of various substances that must be reported if a spill occurs. For example, any pesticide spill in excess of five kilograms, any fertilizer or manure spill greater than 50 kilograms, and any spill of petroleum products greater than 100 litres must be reported. The Regulation should be consulted for details on other substances and the reportable quantities associated with same. The Regulation requires a person to report spills in excess of the quantities mentioned to Emergency Management BC at 1.800.663.3456.

Legislation

Information on federal and provincial legislation can be found in Appendices B and C. Acts, regulations and bylaws that regulate or may affect transportation practices include, but are not limited to, the following.

Federal Legislation

The *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* regulates the transportation of certain dangerous goods to promote public safety within the province.

Provincial Legislation

The *Commercial Transport Act* requires the registration and licensing of all commercial vehicles.

The *Environmental Management Act* protects the soil, water and air environment from pollution. The *Spill Reporting Regulation* under the Act describes the minimum quantities and types of spills that must be reported.

The *Integrated Pest Management Act* regulates the transportation of pesticides on public roadways.

The *Motor Vehicle Act* and associated regulations protect people traveling on public roads.

The *Passenger Transportation Act* requires the registration of motor carrier operators for hire and outlines licensing and commercial vehicle safety requirements for the transportation of passengers between residences and places of employment.

The *Transport of Dangerous Goods Act* regulates the transport of dangerous goods not covered by federal legislation.

The *Transportation Act* prohibits a variety of activities which may damage roads or which may be dangerous to drivers.

Publications

Publications that provide further information on transportation include, but are not limited to, the following. Refer to Appendix D for details.

British Columbia Environmental Farm Practice Reference Guide

Farm Vehicles on the Move

Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals – Transportation

Recommended codes of practice for the care and handling of a variety of species of farm animals are also available.