

Premises ID

Frequently Asked Questions



Ministry of
Agriculture

What is a premises?

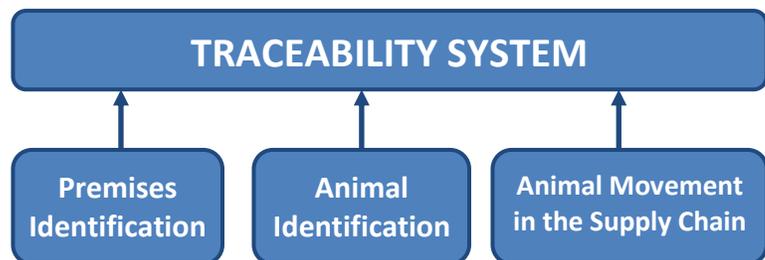
A premises is any parcel of land where animals or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of.

What is a Premises ID?

A Premises ID is a unique nine character code assigned to a single legal land description or land use permit. In British Columbia, all Premises ID numbers start with **BC** (for example: **BC449GP7N**). Use of the Premises ID eliminates confusion for emergency responders caused by multiple addresses, complicated legal land descriptions, and duplicate or changing farm names.

Why should I register my premises with the Premises ID Program?

Premises ID is one of the three pillars of the national livestock traceability system, the others being animal identification and animal movement in the supply chain. An effective livestock traceability system allows Canada's livestock industries to respond quickly and keep operating during animal disease events.



Premises ID also supports fast and accurate responses to non-disease emergencies that threaten livestock, such as floods, forest fires, or environmental contamination events.

What is the BC Premises ID Registry?

The Premises ID Registry is a secure database of BC Premises IDs connected to the following information:

- Legal land description or land use permit with geographic coordinates
- Emergency Contact Information
- Premises Type (e.g. farm, community pasture, auction market, abattoir, feedlot, fairground)
- Animal Type and Maximum Capacity for all species that that may be on the premises

How is my personal information protected?

Protection of personal information is a primary objective of the Premises Identification program. Per the *Animal Health Act*, personal information cannot be disclosed for any purposes except those prescribed in the act. These purposes are limited to animal disease responses or environmental disasters affecting animal health, and disclosure is only permitted to other government agencies involved in the emergency response.

What happens when a property is sold?

Premises IDs are associated with parcels of land, not individuals. The Premises ID is retired only when a property is subdivided or consolidated. Because there is no link between the Premises ID Registry and the Land Title Office, please notify us of property sales so we can update the registry.

How do I register my Premises?

As of March 2016, you can register and update your premises online: www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram. You can also mail, email, or fax a paper registration form to the Ministry. Instructions and a link to download the paper registration form are available on the program website listed above.

What does it cost to register?

There is no financial cost to register your premises. We thank you for taking time to complete the registration.

How long will it take to receive my Premises ID and how will I be notified?

You will receive your Premises ID immediately if you register online using the nine digit parcel identifier (PID) from your property assessment notice. If you register with a paper form or use a civic address to specify your location during online registration, Ministry staff will complete your registration. Our goal is to notify you of your Premises ID within two business days of the receipt of your registration.

What happens if my contact information, premises types, animal types or capacity changes?

Because effective emergency response depends on accurate information, we request that you update your premises registration when there are significant changes to your contact information or the nature of your livestock operation. You can update your information yourself by using your online access user ID. If you registered with a paper form, you can contact the Ministry to create an online access user ID for your existing account. You can also communicate information changes to the Ministry via mail, phone or email and our program staff will update your registration. Program contact information is listed at the bottom of this page.

What is the difference between Primary Premises and Linked Premises?

The **Primary Premises** is the single parcel defined as the main location of an agricultural operation, also known as the main ranch or home site. **Linked Premises** are additional parcels of land within an agricultural operation where livestock may be present. From an animal health perspective, the Primary Premises and all Linked Premises form a single epidemiological unit because of the regular movement of animals between them.

From a Federal traceability perspective when do I report movement of animals?

Movement reporting is dependent on animal species. Movement reporting of cattle into feedlots with more than 1000 head capacity is voluntary and is being encouraged by the beef cattle sector. Movement reporting of pigs is mandatory under federal regulation and is managed through an administrator agreement between the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and the Canadian Pork Council's (CPC) traceability system, PigTrace. All locations involved in the care or control of pigs need a Premises ID to enter data into PigTrace. For further information, please visit the Canadian Pork Council's PigTrace website at <http://pigtrace.ca/> or the BC Pork website <http://www.bcpork.ca/traceability/>.

If I have cattle, does the Ministry notify the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) of my Primary Premises ID?

In accordance with the *Animal Health Act*, we do not share premises registration information with the CCIA. You may link your CCIA account to your Primary Premises ID at your convenience.

Who can answer my other questions?

Ask a Premises ID Program Representative at the Ministry of Agriculture in Abbotsford (1-888-221-7141 or 604-556-3001) or send an email to BCPID@gov.bc.ca.