

# Frequently Asked Questions

## Proposed BC Premises ID Regulation

### General

#### 1. What is the purpose of Premises Identification (ID)?

Premises identification (ID) information is a powerful tool for increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of animal health and environmental emergency response and is a key component of BC's animal traceability system. Animal health and environmental emergencies can be devastating for producers, and a more efficient response can significantly reduce the impact of those events. Premises ID connects animals to specific geographic locations, which enhances the ability of industry and the Province to more quickly and effectively locate and contact animal owners during an event, reducing the spread of disease, animal deaths and economic impacts to farmers and operators.

#### 2. How do I register with the Premises ID Program?

You can register today! The easiest way to open an account, register your premises and update your account information is to use the BC Premises ID Online tool ([BCPID Online](#)) which can be accessed on our website: [www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram](http://www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram).

Online registration takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. A [short video tutorial](#) is available on our website to walk you through the process.

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.

#### 3. What does it cost to register?

There is no cost to register your premises.

#### 4. I have a small farm with only a few animals – do I need a premises ID number?

We are all in this together and we all have a responsibility to do our part to support agriculture in BC by protecting the health and safety of farm animals. Animal diseases don't discriminate and can affect any animal at any time. A disease detected on your small farm can quickly impact your neighbours and unintentionally lead to large and potentially devastating impacts for commercial producers.

#### 5. What information do I need to provide?

When you open a premises ID account, you will be asked for all of the following information:

- ◆ Emergency contact information for the premises

- ◆ Location of the premises, preferably defined by the BC Land Titles Parcel ID (*e.g.* 000-000-000) if applicable.
- ◆ Type of premises (*e.g.*, farm, feedlot, abattoir)
- ◆ Types/species of animals that are raised, kept, displayed, assembled, or disposed of on the premises
- ◆ Maximum capacity of the premises for each species of animal

Premises ID account holders are asked to identify one location as their primary premises, and any other premises (called “linked premises”) where their animals may be kept or moved to (*e.g.*, a grazing pasture or second property).

#### **6. How long does it take to receive a Premises ID and how will I be notified?**

You will receive your premises ID number (*e.g.*, BCX123X9Z) immediately if you register online and have all required information on hand, including the nine digit land parcel identifier (*e.g.*, 000-000-000), which can be found on your BC property assessment notice. After you complete the online registration, AGRI staff will send a verification email within 2 business days confirming that your registration was successful.

If you register with a paper form or use your civic address to specify your premises location during online registration, Ministry staff will complete the registration for you. Our goal is to notify you of your Premises ID within two business days of receiving your registration form.

#### **7. What happens if my contact information, premises type, animal type or capacity changes?**

Effective emergency management depends on accurate information. We request that you update your premises ID account when there are significant changes to your contact information, or the nature of your livestock operation.

You can update your account online using your user ID. If you registered using a paper registration form, you can contact the Ministry to create an online 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. Contact information is provided at the bottom of this document.

#### **8. What happens if I sell my property and/or move my animals to a new property?**

A premises ID number is connected to a specific geographic location. In other words, your premises ID number does not move with you when you move, or move your animals to a new property. If your animals are moved to a new location, you will need to update your premises ID account to reflect your new premises location and obtain a new premises ID number for the new location.

## Proposed Scope of a new Premises ID Regulation

### 9. Who would need to register under the new regulation?

The proposed new regulation would require all owners of “animals” in captivity, or operators of sites where animals may be present, to obtain a premises ID account within 30 days of assuming care and (or) ownership of the animal(s), and to register all premises where their animals are raised, kept or assembled. Similarly, an owner or operator of premises where animals owned by different owners are raised kept or assembled or disposed of, either temporarily or permanently (i.e., a “commingling site”), would need to register and obtain a premises ID number for the commingling site. Commingling sites being considered include such premises as:

- ◆ Abattoirs
- ◆ Assembly yards
- ◆ Auctions/livestock sale facilities
- ◆ Community pastures
- ◆ Crown range tenures
- ◆ Exhibition/fair grounds
- ◆ Farms
- ◆ Feedlots
- ◆ Hatcheries
- ◆ Hobby Farms
- ◆ Insemination centres
- ◆ Private pastures
- ◆ Race tracks/competition facilities
- ◆ Rendering plants
- ◆ Research facilities
- ◆ Stables
- ◆ Veterinary hospitals/labs
- ◆ Zoos/petting zoos

### 10. What kinds of animals would fall under the new regulation?

“Animals” covered under a new regulation would be defined in the regulation by a list of species. Species being considered for inclusion in the regulation are:

- ◆ Alpacas
- ◆ Asses
- ◆ Beef cattle
- ◆ Bees
- ◆ Bison
- ◆ Cervids (farmed deer, reindeer or caribou)
- ◆ Dairy Cattle
- ◆ Donkeys
- ◆ Doves
- ◆ Ducks
- ◆ Fowl (quail, peafowl, pheasants, guinea fowl and pigeons)
- ◆ Fur-bearing animals (chinchilla, mink, fox)
- ◆ Geese
- ◆ Goats
- ◆ Guinea Fowl
- ◆ Horses
- ◆ Llamas
- ◆ Mules
- ◆ Peafowl
- ◆ Pheasants
- ◆ Pigeons
- ◆ Poultry (broiler, hatching egg, pullet, table egg, turkey)
- ◆ Quail
- ◆ Rabbits
- ◆ Ratites
- ◆ Sheep
- ◆ Swine (pigs, hogs)
- ◆ Vicuna
- ◆ Water Buffalo
- ◆ Wild boars
- ◆ Yaks

**11. What if I already have a premises ID number?**

If you already have a premises ID number, you would not need to re-register if a new regulation is introduced.

It is your responsibility to ensure that your account information is up to date. If you have not updated your information in the last two years, it is recommended that you log in to your [BCPID Online account](#) to update your information. If you have questions, you can contact program staff at 1-888-221-7141 or by email at: [BCPID@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCPID@gov.bc.ca)

**12. How would registration requirements under the new regulation differ from the voluntary registration program that already exists?**

The current registration process would not change. Registrants would be required to provide the same information that is being requested now under the voluntary system.

The proposed regulation would require premises ID account holders to update their account information within 30 days of any changes (e.g., new livestock species, new contact information) and may also be required to re-verify their account information on a regular basis (i.e., at least every 1-2 years).

**13. When would I be asked for my Premises ID number?**

If a new regulation is introduced, consideration would be given to requiring a premises ID number to apply for or renew certain types of operating licenses, or to apply for or receive funding through provincial programs, including agriculture or livestock insurance programs administered by the Province.

It is expected that cattle, bison, sheep, farmed deer, swine and goat producers will be required to report their premises ID number when moving animals under proposed new federal traceability regulations, which are anticipated to be announced in 2020. Ministry staff will help to support and inform BC livestock operators when these changes are announced by the federal government. Movement reporting for species other than the 6 regulated species (i.e., cattle, bison, sheep, farmed deer, swine and goat) is not expected to be required under the proposed federal regulations. For more information on changes to federal traceability requirements, visit the Canadian Food Inspection Agency website: <https://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/terrestrial-animals/traceability/eng/1300461751002/1300461804752>

**14. What other provinces require premises ID registration?**

Premises ID registration is currently mandatory in Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Quebec and Prince Edward Island.

## 15. When would a new Regulation be introduced?

Over the coming months, AGRI will be consulting with industry to determine whether a premises ID regulation will be introduced, and if so, an appropriate timeline and implementation and compliance approaches.

## How is Premises ID Information Used?

### 16. How is my premises ID information currently used?

Use, collection and disclosure of premises ID information is strictly controlled under the BC *Animal Health Act*. A potential new regulation would continue that protection while ensuring that information is readily accessible for the planning and response to animal health or environmental emergency events.

The following are a few illustrative examples of situations where premises ID information might be used by or requested from the premises ID program by emergency response agencies:

- ◆ To identify and notify farm operations that are at-risk from natural disaster events (e.g. fires, floods) or environmental threats (e.g. spilling of anhydrous ammonia, water contamination); To identify operations with at-risk species along transportation corridors from an at-risk area where a reportable disease has been detected;
- ◆ Zoning or quarantining areas with at-risk animals to maintain the movement of unaffected animals to markets;
- ◆ Designing and implementing table-top emergency response planning exercises to simulate real scenarios for notifiable diseases; and
- ◆ Disease modelling exercises to determine potential impacts and and/or recovery plans.

### 17. How is my information protected?

Information in the premises ID registry is kept secure and confidential in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA). This includes adherence to the provision in FOIPPA that all personal information must be stored in Canada. Only a small number of AGRI staff have access to the system via strict password controls. Premises ID information is considered very sensitive, personal information and is not used or shared publicly, or provided to other agencies for reasons other than those listed above.

## Premises ID and Traceability

### 18. How is premises ID related to federal traceability regulations?

Premises ID is one of three pillars of an effective livestock traceability system, along with animal identification and animal movement reporting. BC continues to collaborate with the federal government to close important gaps in Canada's traceability system, and mandating premises ID in BC is an important step in that effort.

The Premises ID Program is managed provincially by AGRI, while animal identification and animal movement reporting are mandated by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and managed in partnership with Responsible Administrators working on behalf of industry, including PigTrace and the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA).

Proposed new federal traceability regulations are anticipated in 2020, and are expected to include a requirement to report a premises ID number when certain regulated species are moved including: cattle, sheep, swine, bison, goat and cervid (farmed deer). The BC premises ID program meets the federal guidelines for premises identification, and participation in the program will support compliance with the anticipated federal traceability regulations.

## We want your feedback!

Public comment on the proposed regulation is welcomed and may be provided through any of the following channels:

### 1. Online Survey

BC residents are invited to complete the online survey which can be accessed through the following [link](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJCFRKS): <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZJCFRKS>

### 2. Email

If you are unable to complete the survey, you can provide feedback to the BC Premises ID Program's email: [BCPID@gov.bc.ca](mailto:BCPID@gov.bc.ca)

### 3. Phone or Mail

You can reach Premises ID Program staff by phone at 1-888-221-7141, fax at 250-334-1410 (attn: Premises ID Program), or send in your comments by mail by October 11, 2019 to the following address:

BC Premises ID Program  
BC Ministry of Agriculture  
2500 Cliffe Avenue  
Courtenay, BC V9N 5M6