

Questions and Answers: Equine Industry Information

1. **What are the biosecurity requirements for the horse industry?**
At present, there are no biosecurity regulations in effect or under consideration for the equine industry. Biosecurity measures are voluntary for horse owners or owners/operators of commingling sites.
2. **What is a commingling site?**
A comingling site is a location where recordable animals (cattle, horses, sheep, goats, bison, etc.) owned by different owners are held together. Examples of commingling sites are: boarding stables, community pastures, race tracks, feedlots, veterinary clinics, fairs and exhibitions.
3. **Will biosecurity measures be necessary during a disease outbreak?**
The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV) will use a number of measures, including premises identification and biosecurity, to effectively and efficiently manage an event such as a disease outbreak. The Premises Identification Program was established to track all locations where animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed or assembled. Biosecurity measures will be determined by the OCPV as necessary to the event and will be communicated to horse owners or owners/operators of commingling sites at that time.
4. **Who does the Traceability Premises Identification Regulation apply to?**
If you are an animal owner, or own a commingling site, the regulation applies to you. The regulation came into force on January 1, 2009 and covers all recordable animals as defined under the regulation, with the exception of household pets such as dogs and cats.
5. **Is the requirement for premises identification part of the Alberta Livestock Identification Act?**
No. Regulations requiring premises identification are part of the *Animal Health Act*, which was proclaimed on January 1, 2009.
6. **What will I be required to do for premises identification?**
In order to create a functional database, starting January 1, 2009 all Alberta animal owners must update or apply for a new premises identification account - even if one has already been assigned by Alberta Pork or the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA).

If producers already have a premises identification (PID) number through the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), a new number will not be assigned. Instead the owner must apply for a Premise Identification Account through Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development and complete the required information for the premises, including legal land location, premises type, animal species, and capacity.

7. How will this information be used?

Premises identification information is one of the three key pillars of traceability along with animal identification and movement information. Information will be used for emergency management purposes to prevent, prepare for, respond to, or recover from a disaster, foreign animal disease outbreak, or an emergency threatening animal and/or public health.

8. How is a premises identification account different from a premises identification number?

A premises identification account is a unique identifying number assigned to an owner or their company of a recordable animal (cattle, sheep, horses, hogs, bison, poultry in captivity, etc.) or to an operator of a commingling site.

A premises identification number (PID number) is a unique identifying number assigned to a specific premises, which is an area of land contained in a legal land description or identified geo-referenced coordinates. A premises is where recordable animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed, assembled or disposed of.

9. Do I have to apply for a premises identification account if my animals are at a commingling site?

Yes. Owners whose animals are held at a commingling site (boarding stable, racetrack, community pasture, etc.) still need to apply for their own premises identification account.

When recordable animal owners apply for their own premises identification account they will utilize a PID number or legal land location for the commingling site that the owner/operator must provide them with.

10. Do I have to apply for a premises identification (PID) number if my animals are at a commingling site?

No. The site owner/operator will provide the animal owner with the PID number (or legal land location) for the specific commingling site where the animals are being held.

The animal owner requires this PID number when they apply for their own premise identification account.

11. Will I have more than one premises identification (PID) number based on the variety of livestock I own or have on my operation?

No. You will receive only one PID number for your home quarter/operation as it is tied to the land location, or premises, not to the type of livestock species that you own.

If producers already have a PID number through the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA), a new number will not be assigned. Instead, the owner must apply for a premise identification account through Alberta

Agriculture and Rural Development and provide the required information for the premises, including legal land description, premises type, animal species and capacity.

12. If I have multiple premises or land locations, will I have to register them all under my premise identification account?

Currently, owners only need to register the home quarter/operation on the application to set up your premise identification account.

As the PID program becomes fully implemented, you will be required to register all of the other premises that hold your reportable animals.

13. Will I have to report to the government every time I move my animals?

No. In some circumstances, however, you will be required to report certain movements of animals.

The details surrounding movement tracking are still being finalized in close consultation with industry representatives. Final requirements for movement tracking will be based on national standards, keeping in mind what is practical and makes sense from the producers' perspective.

14. Is it possible to submit my PID application online?

Yes, you can complete and submit your PID application online at www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises.

15. How do I get more information on the PID Program or additional PID application forms?

Contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) or visit www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises.

16. What is the *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act*?

The new *Livestock Identification and Commerce Act* (LICA) consolidates and modernizes Alberta's *Brand Act*, the *Livestock and Livestock Products Act* and the *Livestock Identification and Brand Inspection Act*.

LICA recognizes accepted industry practices and standardizes documentation for sales transactions and livestock transportation. The goal of the legislation is to help facilitate fair commerce by protecting personal property, enhancing recognition of livestock security interests and promoting the integrity of livestock marketing.

17. How will my day-to-day activities be affected by LICA?

The most notable change to producers will be the form of the new livestock manifest and the requirement to complete a livestock security interest declaration when the livestock is sold.

A livestock security interest is a security interest registered under *Personal Property Security Act* or the *Bank Act* (Canada) to secure the repayment of money used to purchase the livestock.

18. Will there be any changes in the forms and my record keeping requirements?

Yes. All existing forms have been updated to reflect the changes in the Act. All bills of sale, settlement statements, livestock security interest declarations, livestock manifests and livestock permits must be kept for 10 years.

19. Are there any requirements that must be met when livestock is sold?

Yes. A person selling livestock must disclose whether they are the owner of the livestock or a livestock dealer or livestock dealer's agent acting on behalf of the owner. If the owner is selling the livestock, the purchaser must obtain the livestock security interest declaration from the owner.

20. What documentation is required to transport or drive livestock to a destination *outside* Alberta?

Livestock leaving Alberta require a livestock permit or special permit (annual horse permit, lifetime horse permit, pedigree cattle permit or a rodeo and exhibition permit).

21. What documentation is required to transport or drive livestock to a destination *within* Alberta?

All livestock, except horses, require a livestock manifest to be transported or driven within Alberta. Horses will need a livestock manifest when transported for sale, slaughter or to an inspection site.

In addition, livestock permits are now required for all livestock leaving country sales, including where the livestock has been inspected, livestock markets, livestock assembly stations and abattoirs.

22. Why are livestock inspections necessary?

Livestock is inspected to confirm that the person in possession of the livestock is the owner of the livestock or is otherwise entitled to be in possession of the livestock and, in the case of the sale of the livestock, is entitled to the sale proceeds.

23. Where is an inspection not required?

A change in ownership of livestock alone will no longer trigger an inspection. Instead, the movement of livestock to inspection sites will determine whether an inspection is required.