

# Alberta bighorn sheep compulsory registration

## Registration process for harvested sheep

### Important notice for the registration process of harvested bighorn sheep

#### Reminder:

- Before submitting their sheep for compulsory registration, all hunters are required to remove the cape and lower jaw.
- Hunters are encouraged to make an appointment at a designated office to register their sheep.

### Compulsory Registration for the hunting season

During the hunting season for bighorn sheep, any person who kills a male sheep, over one (1) year of age must submit the sheep to a designated office for compulsory registration.

These include rams killed under the authority of a hunting licence (resident, non-resident, non-resident alien), or harvested by Métis or First Nation hunters.

Registration provides:

- means to collect critical information for wildlife management and enforcement
- legal authority to possess a specimen when appropriate.

Hunters must submit the sheep's head with the cape and lower jaw removed, and eyes in tact to a designated office, by appointment.

Hunters should also remove excess meat and fat from the base of the skull before presenting the sheep for registration.

During the registration process, the "jig" will be used for all hunter-killed rams over one (1) year old. The jig is a standardized device for measuring bighorn sheep and determining legal status.



Trophy sheep securely placed in jig for determining legal status



Full-curl trophy sheep securely placed in jig for determining legal status



## Mandatory removal of cape and lower jaw

It is a legal requirement that the lower jaw and cape be removed, and that the eye be intact. If a ram is delivered that is not caped, the sheep will be refused and hunters will have to return at a later date to deliver the caped sheep. A sheep with cape on and lower jaw present cannot be placed in the jig.

A hunter may choose to have a taxidermist remove the cape to meet the registration requirements, rather than removing it themselves. Some taxidermists may request a hunter provide them a bill of lading to grant the taxidermist permission to take possession of unregistered (unplugged) sheep. The hunter should ensure that while the taxidermist is removing the cape that they do not alter the skull and eye, or prepare it for taxidermy before it is registered.

## Designated offices

Moving to Designated Offices will provide hunters with a quicker, more efficient registration process. Alberta Environment and Parks conducts the registration process and has staff available at limited locations. A current list of Designated Offices for the hunting season is listed in the [Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations](#)

## Making an appointment to have your sheep registered at a Designated Office

You can make an appointment by calling one of the Designated Offices listed below. It is best to call a minimum of 3 business days ahead if possible, or at your earliest opportunity during regular business hours.

A list of designated offices in the province can be found in current edition of the [Alberta Guide to Hunting Regulations](#).

## If an appointment is not made

If you do not make an appointment at a designated office, staff may be unable to register your sheep. If no staff are available, hunters may still drop off sheep (provided freezer space is available), but the sheep will be kept and hunters will need to return at a later date to retrieve the sheep when registration has been completed and all data collected.

## Registering non-hunter killed sheep

Found dead, accidental deaths or sheep killed by non-hunting means may be registered at any Environment and Parks office in the province.

It is recommended that you call ahead to make an appointment.

### Reminder

Hunters are reminded to review the definitions for each sheep regulation so that they are certain it exceeds the definition prior to harvesting the ram.