

# PROTOCOL FOR THE SECURE TRANSPORT OF DOMESTIC CERVIDS IMPORTED FROM SASKATCHEWAN FOR SLAUGHTER IN ALBERTA

## DEFINITIONS

In this Protocol,

“*animal*” means a domestic cervid

“*abattoir*” means a provincially licensed meat facility where animal slaughter may take place and the animal carcass may be processed into meat products or by-products.

“*Chief Provincial Veterinarian*” means the Chief Provincial Veterinarian appointed for Alberta.

“*compliance*” means that requirements of an applicable regulatory regime have been met

“*domestic cervid*” means any species of animal to which the *Domestic Cervid Industry Regulation (Livestock Industry Diversification Act)* applies.

“*endemic area*” an area defined by the Chief Provincial Veterinarian where Chronic Wasting Disease is present in the wild, based upon data collected annually by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

“*establishment*” means a federally licensed meat establishment where animal slaughter may take place and the animal carcass may be processed into meat products or by-products and which is subject to the administrative authority of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (“CFIA”).

“*farm*” means a licensed domestic cervid farm in Alberta or a licensed domestic game farm another jurisdiction

“*official*” veterinarian or designate working under the supervision of a veterinarian, a provincial government employee, or federal government employee (i.e. CFIA)

“*veterinarian*” – means a veterinarian who is registered with the professional regulatory body overseeing the licensing and practice of veterinary medicine in Alberta or the jurisdiction in which the farm is located.

- An import permit and a federal Cervid Movement Permit (CMP) are required for all cervid movements.
- A full description of the travel route must be included as a condition of the permit. Any deviation from this route must be approved of by the CPV.

## APPLICATION

This Protocol applies to domestic cervids transported from Saskatchewan into Alberta, for slaughter at either a federally licensed establishment or a provincially licensed abattoir, and in particular, to the species listed below.

- elk
  - *Cervus canadensis manitobensis* (Manitoban Elk)
  - *Cervus canadensis nannodes* (Tule Elk)
  - *Cervus canadensis nelsoni* (Rocky Mountain Elk)
  - *Cervus canadensis roosevelti* (Roosevelt Elk)
  - *Cervus Canadensis asiaticus* (Altai Elk)
- White-tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*)
- Mule Deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*)

## OUTCOME

This Protocol aims to reduce the risk of introducing or spreading CWD from cervids imported into Alberta for slaughter to non-affected wild cervid populations through escapes or the improper disposal of bedding material.

# TRANSPORT RISK ASSESSMENT

This protocol takes into account the place of animal origin, the transportation route, and the CWD status in the wild in the region where the receiving establishment is located to determine and mitigate risk of CWD transmission from imported to wild cervid populations.

## IDENTIFICATION OF CWD ENDEMIC AREAS

The Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian (OCPV) determines the endemic areas based on data collected annually by Alberta Environment and Protected Areas.

## ANIMAL MOVEMENT

### For Movements occurring entirely through an Endemic Area within Alberta

- Movement of animals imported from outside of Alberta must originate from a farm with a valid game farm license.
- Must meet the requirements for cervid movement from the jurisdiction of origin.
- If animals originate from farms with a CWD positive test result, advance notice must be given to ensure capacity for testing of primary and secondary tissues.
- An import permit and a federal Cervid Movement Permit (CMP) are required for all cervid movements.
- A full description of the travel route, within Alberta, must be included as a condition of the permit. Any deviation from this route must be approved of by the CPV, unless the deviation is caused by an emergency, and in such case, notification must be given to the

CPV as soon as is reasonably practicable.

- Animals must have a visual identifier in order to differentiate the animals in transit from a wild cervid from a distance. Examples of acceptable visual identifiers include, but are not limited to, a dangle tag or high visibility paint.
- Herds under a CFIA quarantine order and movement restriction must follow any additional CFIA protocols

### Transport to Slaughter through a Non-endemic Area

In addition to the above listed requirements, the following conditions must be met.

- Authorities in the exporting jurisdiction will be requested to verify that
  - the animals to be imported have resided on the exporting farm for at least 90 days prior to the movement
  - AND
  - the herd has a CWD -testing rate of at least 90% within the past two years
  - AND
- has NOT had a CWD positive result  
AND
- Is not under a movement restriction or quarantine

## REQUIRED ACTION IN MOVEMENTS FROM ALL RISK CATEGORIES

### PLACE OF SLAUGHTER

The place of slaughter ("facility") must be approved as

- a federally licensed establishment, in the case of imported cervids or a provincially licensed abattoir  
AND
- meet the Standards for Slaughter Facilities Accepting Imported Cervids, attached to this protocol and marked as Appendix 1.

### RECORD OF ANIMALS TRANSPORTED

A record of all animals transported to slaughter must be submitted to the CPV; this can be a copy of the kill sheet or a marked Cervid Movement Permit.

The transport operator must sign the schedule indicating the number of cervids that have been loaded.

### DEATHS IN TRANSIT OR PRIOR TO SLAUGHTER

All animals that die in transit or prior to slaughter at a facility must have their heads removed, placed in a leak proof container that is separate from the heads of slaughtered animals, labelled as being dead on arrival, and tested for CWD.

### EMERGENCY STUNNING

Where an animal has been injured during transit and needs to be euthanized for humane reasons, stunning may occur inside the transport vehicle or in the case of animals under CFIA movement restriction, in accordance with CFIA protocols.

# APPENDIX 1

## STANDARDS FOR SLAUGHTER FACILITIES ACCEPTING IMPORTED CERVIDS

1. The slaughter facility ("facility") must be an approved federal establishment or provincial abattoir.
2. Alberta Government staff must inspect and approve a facility prior to receiving any imported cervids for the first time. Any subsequent substantial changes made to the facility that may affect compliance with this appendix must be reported to the CPV. This may result in the requirement for an additional inspection.
3. A facility that slaughters imported cervids under this protocol is required to have a containment fence or corral system around the transport vehicles and/or the entire facility during unloading in order to prevent accidental escape of cervids from the slaughter facility premises.
4. All runways and chutes at the facility shall be made secure enough to prevent the escape or injury of any animals. An animal that escapes from a transport vehicle or the facility must be captured or killed immediately, and its head must be submitted to Alberta Agriculture and Irrigation (AAGI) for CWD testing. Escapes must be reported immediately by telephone to the CPV at:  
Office of the Chief Provincial Veterinarian 24 hour line 1-800-534-0051.  
The CPV will report the escape incident to both Alberta Fish and Wildlife and the Inspection and Investigation Section, AAGI.
5. The facility must be able to slaughter all cervids on the same day. The facility must be aware that any carcass, parts of carcass, offal, etc. from a CWD positive animal must be condemned. If continuity of identification is lost, all product that potentially contains material from that positive animal will be condemned.
6. The facility must be able to remove the heads from all cervids that die in transit or prior to slaughter at the approved facility and place them in a separate leak proof container from containers used for the heads of slaughtered animals.
7. Cleaning of the trailer must take place in an endemic area where waste may be sent to a local landfill or a truck wash that accommodates the removal of manure. Herds under CFIA de-population orders must follow CFIA vehicle cleaning protocols.
8. The facility must be able to stun the animals in the abattoir. The only time when stunning may occur in a transport vehicle is when an animal needs to be euthanized for humane reasons due to injury during transport.
10. The facility shall have a stunning mechanism that does not render any tissues unsuitable for appropriate CWD testing. Facility workers must be experienced in cervid slaughter procedures to ensure test tissues are available and not damaged.
11. If, for any reason, slaughter cannot take place within 24 hours of arrival at the facility, then the following steps must be taken
  - In the case of animals at an establishment, CFIA protocols must be followed.
  - In the case of abattoirs
    - Animals may be returned to their farm of origin if the animals on board the transport vehicle do not present a biosecurity risk to each other or their herds of origin, provided they have not been unloaded.
    - If off loaded, the CPV may make provisions, on a case-by-case basis.
    - Animals must be of the same or higher status level than the destination herd if the herd is enrolled in the National Chronic Wasting Disease Herd Certification Program.
    - If returning to the farm of origin is not reasonable, consultation with OCPV is required to determine an alternate arrangement that considers animal welfare, biosecurity, and the secure confinement of the animals at the facility in an area that is constructed of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected.