

Meat Inspection Regulation Amendments

Red Tape Reduction

What you need to know

Background

The Government of Alberta is committed to reducing unnecessary red tape by one-third to reduce costs, speed up approvals, and make life better for Albertans. Agriculture and Forestry (AF) completed a review of the *Meat Inspection Regulation* (Regulation). The amendments focused on removing unnecessary prescriptive wording, resulting in decreased regulatory burden that will enable innovation and facilitate responsiveness to change. The amended Regulation was written using outcome-based language to allow for flexibility on how a licensee can best meet the Regulation in their specific operations.

What has changed

The Regulation overall

A line-by-line review of the Regulation identified opportunities to reduce red tape, improve clarity, and become more outcome-based.

The changes included removing prescriptive requirements that were inefficient or out-dated. This approach is consistent with other provincial and federal governments in moving towards more outcome-based regulations. It also enables industry to use new or alternative means to meet the regulatory intent of achieving the desired outcomes of safe food and animal welfare.

The amendments enhance clarity through:

- Updating definitions and terminology to remove circular references
- Removing duplication of requirements in the Regulation and the Meat Facility Standard
- Remove sections that are no longer required by AF

- Administrative changes, such as updating references to federal legislation to reflect the new *Safe Food for Canadians Act* and Regulation.

What does outcome-based mean?

Outcome-based regulatory requirements

- The regulation specifies the desired result that regulated parties must meet, rather than the means by which it must be achieved.

Prescriptive regulatory requirements

- The regulation prescribes a specific standard, requirement or process to follow or actions that a regulated party must take in order to achieve compliance.

What it means for AF licence holders

Outcome-based legislation allows for flexibility in how the regulation is met instead of following step-by-step prescriptive directions. This supports the licensee in addressing hazards in ways that are specific to their process and facility. This puts more autonomy on the operator to find a way that works for them.

For more information, contact:

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