

Management of Specified Risk Materials



This document identifies the regulatory requirements that apply to the handling, transportation, treatment and disposal of specified risk materials in Saskatchewan.

If you have any questions regarding this topic, please contact the Ministry of Environment at 306-787-6488 or the Canadian Food Inspection Agency at 1-800-442-2342.

Saskatchewan Acts and Regulations, including those mentioned in this fact sheet, may be obtained from the Queen's Printer online at: www.qp.gov.sk.ca

CFIA permits may be obtained by contacting your local CFIA district office. To find the location nearest you, go to: www.inspection.gc.ca/english/anima/heasan/offbure.shtml

Introduction

The following provides information about the requirements for the management of specified risk materials. Due to the potential for the contamination of water resources, it is recommended that off-site disposal options at approved facilities be considered before choosing on-premise disposal. Facility owners are responsible for ensuring that contamination does not occur as a result of disposing or treating wastes on-premise.

Specified Risk Material is defined as the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia (nerves attached to the brain), eyes, tonsils, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia (nerves attached to the spinal cord) of cattle aged 30 months or older and the distal ileum (portion of the small intestine) of cattle of all ages. If these tissues are not removed and segregated during slaughter and processing, all slaughterhouse waste and any other materials they are combined with are considered specified risk material and are subject to federally-regulated disposal requirements. If deadstock contains these tissues, the entire carcass is considered specified risk material.

Federal Requirements

Specified risk material is capable of transmitting Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) and is banned from all animal feeds, pet foods and fertilizers. Controls related to the collection, movement, treatment, disposal and alternative uses of specified risk material are in place to help prevent the spread of BSE.

A Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit is required for the handling, transporting or disposing of specified risk material, except when disposing or treating specified risk material on the premise of origin. Information about federal requirements is available online from the CFIA at: www.inspection.gc.ca (under the section for "Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy" in "Animal Diseases") or contact the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342.

A copy of a valid CFIA permit must accompany all shipments of specified risk material in any form, including deadstock. Accidents occurring during transportation should be reported directly to the CFIA at 1-800-442-2342.

The intent of the federal regulations is to have regulatory control over specified risk materials, including the carcasses of cattle from which specified risk material has not been removed, and to prevent these potentially infectious materials from entering the feed chain and/or the environment. As stated above, specified risk materials, including carcasses containing specified risk materials, may only be transported from an abattoir or processing establishment by a person or company possessing a valid CFIA permit. All recipients of specified risk materials, for any purpose, must also possess a valid CFIA permit.

Provincial Requirements

In addition to federal requirements, proponents wishing to dispose of or treat slaughterhouse wastes must obtain applicable approvals and permits from the Ministry of Environment.



Environmental Assessment and Review Process

All projects proposing to deal with disposal or treatment of specified risk materials are screened through the environmental assessment and review process. The proponent should contact the Environmental Assessment Branch of Ministry of Environment to determine project proposal requirements under The Environmental Assessment Act. The project proposal will be evaluated to determine if the project is considered a “development”. If a project is not considered a “development”, then the project will be permitted according to applicable acts and regulations.

If the project is considered a “development”, it must receive approval from the Minister of Environment before it can go ahead. The proponent will be required to complete an Environmental Impact Assessment and document the results in a report called an Environmental Impact Statement. For information on the environmental assessment and review process visit the Environmental Assessment area under Programs and Services at this link: www.environment.gov.sk.ca or contact the Environmental Assessment Branch.

The Environmental Assessment Act may apply to any facility, regardless of size or location. Proponents planning disposal of specified risk material should contact the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Ministry of Environment at 306-787-6132 to receive guidance on whether their proposed facility is considered a “development” under the Act.

Environmental Protection Branch Permits

Although the environmental assessment and permit application reviews can take place at the same time, the effective date of a permit must be after the environmental assessment decision is made. Depending on the specifics of the proposed project, construction and/or operating permits may be required. Typically, the environmental assessment and review process will identify to the proponent the provincial permits that may be required and specific contact information. A brief description of potential permits and application requirements is provided below; however, the Environmental Protection Branch should always be contacted before any permit application is submitted to confirm that site specific requirements are met.

Municipal Landfills:

Generally, disposal of remains or by-products from a slaughterhouse is prohibited under The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations; however, the ministry has the ability to waive this prohibition for municipalities choosing to accept specified risk material for disposal, provided landfills meet CFIA design requirements. At a minimum, applications submitted pursuant to The Municipal Refuse Management Regulations should include a duplicate copy of information supplied to meet CFIA requirements, as well as detailed design drawings. An Environmental Protection Officer will review the information and may issue a permit for a new landfill or make permit amendments for established landfills, pending a review of landfill construction, design, operating protocols and approvals from CFIA.

Industrial Landfills:

The Ministry of Environment issues permits pursuant to The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002. At a minimum, applications submitted will include a duplicate copy of information supplied to meet CFIA requirements, as well as detailed design drawings. An Environmental Protection Officer will review the information and may issue a permit for a new landfill or make permit amendments, pending a review of landfill construction, design, operating protocols and approvals from CFIA.

Incineration:

The Ministry of Environment issues permits pursuant to The Clean Air Act and The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002. An Environmental Protection Officer will issue a permit, pending review of the application submitted as outlined in section 4 of The Clean Air Regulations and approvals from CFIA.

Other Technologies:

The Ministry of Environment will review information and permits for other technologies will be issued pursuant to the applicable legislation, pending review of the information supplied and approvals from CFIA.

On-Premise Disposal and Treatment of Slaughterhouse Wastes

In addition to federal requirements, operations that process animals and wish to dispose of or treat slaughterhouse wastes on-premise are required to meet the requirements of Saskatchewan's Environmental Assessment Act, Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002, Clean Air Act and their associated regulations. For more detailed information, please consult the fact sheet entitled “On-Premise Disposal and Treatment of Slaughterhouse Wastes” (EPB 399A).