

# On-Premise Disposal and Treatment of Slaughterhouse Wastes



This document identifies provincial regulatory requirements that apply to the on-premise disposal and treatment of slaughterhouse wastes in Saskatchewan.

If you have any questions regarding this topic, please contact the Ministry of Environment at: 306-933-7940.

Saskatchewan Acts and Regulations including those mentioned in this fact sheet, may be obtained from The Office of the Queen's Printer online at: [www.qp.gov.sk.ca](http://www.qp.gov.sk.ca)

## INTRODUCTION

The following provides information about the requirements for the on-premise disposal and treatment of slaughterhouse wastes. 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. Facilities choosing on-premise disposal or treatment will be required to meet provincial legislation and record keeping requirements.

## FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS:

Certain cattle tissues capable of transmitting Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), also known as specified risk material, are 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.

**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.

**Record Keeping:** All abattoirs disposing of material on-site are responsible for retaining records of specified risk material disposal for 10 years. Records must include:

- name of the abattoir or processing establishment;
- the weight of the specified risk material (kilograms);
- the date and method of specified risk material destruction/containment; and
- location where material is buried or deposited.

**The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) requires permits for anyone handling, transporting or disposing of specified risk material except for those disposing of it on the premises of origin.** Information about federal requirements is available, online, from the CFIA, at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca> under the section for Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy in Animal Disease Information.

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. 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 possess a valid CFIA permit.

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## PROVINCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to federal requirements, operations processing animals and wishing to dispose of or treat slaughterhouse wastes on-premise are required to meet the requirements of Saskatchewan's Environmental Assessment Act, The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 and The Clean Air Act and their associated regulations. The following information is intended to provide guidance for on-site management options for processors wishing to A) bury and/or compost or B) incinerate wastes on-premise.

The Environmental Assessment Act may apply to any disposal facility regardless of size or location. Proponents planning on-premise disposal of slaughterhouse wastes should contact the Environmental Assessment Branch of the Saskatchewan Ministry of Environment to receive guidance on whether their proposed facility is considered a "development" under The Environmental Assessment Act.

### A) Burial and/or Composting

**All facilities that intend to bury and/or compost slaughterhouse wastes on-site are required to submit information to the Ministry of Environment** regarding site characteristics, a description of the burial pit or compost area design and operational plans for burying or composting as outlined in this section.

Facilities producing more than 6000 kilograms of waste per week or where complaints are received will be required to apply for a permit under The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002. A permit will not be issued until an environmental assessment review is complete.

#### **Site Plan:**

The site plan will show the location the burial pit(s) in relation to:

- water resources: surface water, private, municipal or community wells;
- the plant that it services;
- man-made features (roadways, drainage ditches, dugouts, etc.);
- cities, towns or villages; and
- dwellings, hospitals, public eating establishments or other occupied buildings.

#### **Recommended Minimum Allowable Distances:**

Feature	Distance (metres)
Municipal and community water supply well	300
Private well (self supply) to plant	100
Surface water	300
Burial pit from plant it serves	100
Man-made surface features such as drainage ditches, roadways or dugouts	100
Limit on city, town, village or approved subdivision	800
Dwellings, schools, hospitals, public eating establishments or other occupied buildings excepting the premises served by the burial pit	800
Bottom of pit above aquifer	10

#### **Burial Pit/Compost Area Design:**

The burial pit or compost area design will include information on soil characteristics, depth to an aquifer and liner and leachate collection systems (if any). Sites must be located at a geologically secure site as defined by the Ministry of Agriculture's Site Characterization Manual (January 2005). The bottom of the burial pit/compost area should be a minimum of 10 metres above any underlying aquifer where soil conductivity is equal to or less than  $10^{-7}$  cm/s. A qualified person will be required to confirm the evaluation of a geologically secure site. A qualified person includes anyone who can demonstrate adequate education and experience in assessing site conditions. A qualified person may include a person designated as a Professional Engineer or a person possessing education and experience in the assessment of hydrogeology and the design of burial pits or compost systems as deemed acceptable by the ministry.

### **Operational Requirements:**

An operational plan should be prepared describing how waste materials will be managed. The plan should include procedures describing how wastes will be handled in order to limit concerns surrounding the following:

**Isolation of the area from ruminants:** Any area used for burial or composting will have to be isolated from ruminants for a period of five years.

**Notification to rural municipality:** The local rural municipality will need to be notified of locations where specified risk materials, will be buried or composted.

**Record keeping:** In accordance with federal and provincial requirements.

**Aesthetics:** The disposal area should be kept clean, well maintained and out of the view of the general public where possible. Pest control management plans should be developed that focus on controlling insects and vermin.

**Neighbours:** Immediate neighbours that may have concerns regarding the operation should be contacted and asked to provide a "no objection" letter.

**Signage:** Signage indicating an open burial pit or active compost site along with a contact phone number.

**Containment of materials:** Wastes should be covered immediately with minimum of 0.3 metres of cover material.

**Limiting blood or other fluids:** The amount of blood or other fluids should be minimized and procedures to handle excess blood and fluids should be described in the operational plan.

**Control of surface water:** Surface water should be directed away from the site location. Plans should be made to contain and treat water that becomes contaminated.

**Access by scavengers:** Animal management plans including fencing and/or other safeguards to ensure scavengers do not access material.

**Temporary storage:** As winter burial and covering of waste may be difficult a plan to temporarily store or manage materials will be required.

**Final cover:** The final cover for the pit should be mounded with approximately one metre of soil to ensure water does not pool above the pit.

**Final disposition of composted materials:** Materials resulting from composting specified risk materials are considered specified risk materials and are subject to CFIA requirements.

### **B) Incineration**

Facilities intending to incinerate materials will be required to submit a project proposal for screening under the Environmental Assessment process. *The Guidelines for Preparation of a Project Proposal* should be consulted in the preparation of the project proposal. In addition, requirements of The Clean Air Act and regulations and The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2002 applicable to the incinerator and the resultant ash must be met.

If the specified risk material is not subjected to a temperature above 850°C for at least 15 minutes or above 900°C for at least four seconds the ash is still considered specified risk material and must be handled as such, i.e.; if material is removed from premises it must be transported by a transporter possessing a valid CFIA permit and must be disposed of at a facility possessing a valid CFIA permit.

### **Minimum Allowable Distances, Design, and Operational Requirements:**

Incinerators will be required to meet Ambient Air Quality Standards as established by The Clean Air Regulations or other standards as required by permit. Minimum allowable distances, design and operational requirements will be established, by permit, on a project-specific basis, upon evaluation of the information supplied regarding the project.