

March 2008

## Code of Practice for the Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

#### Q. Who does this Code of Practice apply to?

A. This Code applies to operators that slaughter and sell poultry or red meat for human consumption **and** have a waste discharge to the environment. Examples of waste discharges to the environment are disposing of wastewater via a drain/tile field or burying solid waste in an on-site landfill. Do not register under this Code if wastewater is discharged to a municipal sewerage system or if solid waste is picked up by a rendering company: these actions are not considered discharges to the environment.

#### Q. What if I already have a permit authorizing my waste discharges?

A. You may keep your permit and continue doing business as usual or you may opt to cancel your permit and register under the Code. There is no mandate requiring you to cancel a waste discharge permit and register under a Code of Practice.

### Introduction

If you operate a slaughterhouse, whether for red meat or poultry, you produce solid waste: feathers, hides, offal, bones, carcasses or parts of carcasses, etc. There are a number of ways of disposing of these waste products. One of them is incineration.

Incineration of solid waste from slaughterhouses is regulated by the **Code of Practice for the Slaughter and Poultry Processing Industries** (Code) under the Waste Discharge Regulation

of the *Environmental Management Act*. You can download a copy of the Code as well as access background information by following this link: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/codes/slaughter/index.htm>.

This guidance document is intended to assist slaughterhouse operators in understanding the requirements under the Code. For legal purposes, the *Environmental Management Act*, Waste Discharge Regulation and Code shall prevail. Other provincial and federal legislation, guidelines and best management practices that are not described in this document may also apply to slaughterhouse operations. For example, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency has regulations for the handling of specified risk material that producers, transporters and processors must follow. See their website at: <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/animal/heaas/n/diseasala/bseesb/enhren/enhrene.shtml>. Also, the Agricultural Land Commission has an information bulletin on the handling of red meat waste within the Agricultural Land Reserve. For further information see their bulletin at: [http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/Information%20Bulletins/Red Meat Waste info sheet.pdf](http://www.alc.gov.bc.ca/Information%20Bulletins/Red%20Meat%20Waste%20info%20sheet.pdf).

If you slaughter livestock or poultry strictly for your **personal consumption**, you are exempt from the provisions of the Code and do not need to register. You are still required to ensure that your activities do not harm the environment.

Under this Code of Practice, an incinerator can be used *only* for the disposal of solid waste from a slaughterhouse. You are not allowed to burn any other kind of waste, e.g., domestic garbage or yard waste, in it.

## General Registration and Recording Requirements for Slaughterhouses:

All slaughterhouses, except for those slaughtering strictly for the personal consumption of the operator, must:

Register with the Ministry of Environment (MOE). Registration forms will be available online via the following website link: <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/codes/slaughter/index.htm>. Forms can be printed off, completed and sent in by registered mail, courier or fax, or obtained from the Regional MOE office and returned to MOE headquarters in Victoria together with payment of the annual fee.

- Record how many tonnes of live weight of livestock or poultry are slaughtered per year. (If you are unable to weigh live animals, you can estimate live weight from carcass weight using Table 1.)

Species	Carcass Weight
Cattle and Bison under 30 months	50 % of live weight
Cattle and Bison over 30 months	40 % of live weight
Hogs	55 % of live weight
Sheep and Goats	60 % of live weight
Poultry	74% of live weight

*Van Kleeck, R., Investment Agriculture Foundation, 2006*

- Record the maximum amount of liquid waste discharged to the environment from the slaughterhouse in cubic metres per day. **Note:** discharge of liquid waste into a municipal sewerage system is not considered a “discharge to the environment” and you are not required to register for that liquid waste.
- Record how the liquid or solid waste will be disposed of (e.g., septic tank to drain/tile

field; or incineration of solid wastes). **Note:** if the solid waste is picked up e.g., by a rendering company, this is not considered a “discharge to the environment” and you are not required to register for that solid waste.

- Provide a list of any plans that may be required under this Code, e.g., nutrient management plan, groundwater monitoring and assessment plan, vector control plan or landfill closure plan.
- Keep records for at least 10 years and make them available to an officer within two days of a request.
- Notify a director in writing within 30 days after there is any change in information provided in your registration.

## Requirements for the Operation of Incinerators

If you operate an incinerator to burn solid wastes from your slaughterhouse, you must comply with the following requirements:

### Location

- The incinerator must be located at least 500 meters away from any residence other than your own.
- The incinerator must be located at least 1,000 meters away from any business other than your own, any school, hospital or continuing care facility.

### Operation

- The incinerator must be installed, operated and maintained according to the manufacturer’s specifications and instructions.
- You must control dust and odour caused by the operation of the slaughterhouse and the incinerator.

- The maximum amount of solid waste you can burn (loading rate) in a continuous feed incinerator is 400 kilograms/hour.
- The maximum amount of solid waste you can burn (loading rate) in a batch feed incinerator is 400 kilograms/load.

*If the loading rates exceed the above maximums, a permit is required.*

### **Monitoring and Emission Rates**

Incinerators produce emissions in the form of smoke that consists of gases and particulate matter. These emissions must be monitored and recorded (stack monitoring).

- On the first day of operation, and at least once a year after that, the emissions from the incinerator must be tested according to the Stationary Air Emissions Testing section in the latest version of the Ministry of Environment's Field Sampling Manual. You can access the Manual on-line by following this link:  
[http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/data\\_searches/field\\_sampling\\_manual/field\\_man\\_03.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/data_searches/field_sampling_manual/field_man_03.html)
- The Ministry of Environment may require additional testing if it is considered necessary or advisable under the circumstances.
- The emissions from the incinerator must not contain more than 50 milligrams/cubic meter of total particulate matter at reference conditions of dry gas at 25° Centigrade and 101.3 kilopascals corrected at 11% Oxygen.
- The emissions from the incinerator must not exceed 10% total opacity averaged over 6 consecutive minutes.

### **Record Keeping**

- You must keep records of the results from the emissions tests for 10 years.

- You must record how much solid waste is burned in the incinerator.

You are required to comply with all plans that are required to be completed under the Code, retain them and make them available to an officer within two days of a request.

*For more information, consult our website at:*

<http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/industrial/regs/codes/slaughter/index.htm>

*or email the Environmental Management Branch at [envprotdiv@victoria1.gov.bc.ca](mailto:envprotdiv@victoria1.gov.bc.ca).*

*Note: This summary is solely for the convenience of the reader. The current legislation and regulations should be consulted for complete information.*