

BRITISH COLUMBIA PREMISES IDENTIFICATION FOR LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is a premises?

A premises is a parcel of land defined by a legal land description, or in its absence, by geo-referenced coordinates, on which or any part of which animals, plants or food are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of.

Premises include, but are not limited to, farms, feedlots, pastures, community pastures, hatcheries, abattoirs, assembly yards, carcass disposal sites, livestock and poultry research facilities, veterinary clinics, exhibition grounds, competition facilities, race tracks, insemination centres, boarding farms, stables, auction or livestock sale yards, rendering facilities, hobby farms, zoos and petting zoos.

A premises will only be issued a single premises identification number regardless of the number of contacts, animal types or types of farm operation on the parcel of land.

2. What is a premises identification number?

It is a unique alpha-numeric identifier based on national standards assigned to a premises. In British Columbia PID numbers start with either BC33 or BC44 and are followed by 5 randomly generated alpha-numeric characters. For example, BC449GP7N

3. What information is linked to the premises identification number?

Premises identification is a way of linking livestock and poultry to geographic locations for responding to emergencies that threaten animal or public health. A premises is considered to be identified when the following information is complete, accurate and current:

- Legal land description
- Geo-coordinates
- Emergency contact information
- Premises type (e.g. farm, community pasture, abattoir etc)
- Animal type (e.g. list of all animal types on the premises)
- Maximum animal capacity (e.g. maximum number of broiler chickens housed on premises)

4. Is premises identification mandatory in British Columbia?

Although livestock and poultry premises identification is not mandatory in British Columbia at the present time several livestock and poultry groups are utilizing premises identification numbers in order to comply with bio-security standards or to participate in traceability programs.

5. What are the benefits of premises identification?

Premises identification

- enables rapid tracking of animals during emergencies
- allows for timely notifications of livestock and poultry stakeholders during emergencies
- is essential for preventing, planning, responding and recovering from emergencies
- reduces negative economic impact of emergencies
- protects or provides for greater market access

6. What information is required in order to complete a premises identification registration form?

Information required includes:

- Physical address, legal land description or in its absence geo-referenced coordinates and parcel identifier (PID) (refer to your BC Assessment notice for this information)
- Business name and emergency contact information (mailing address, phone number)
- Premises type (e.g. farm, community pasture, abattoir, etc)
- Animal type (e.g. list of all animals that may be present at any time on the premises)
- Animal capacity (e.g. maximum number of feeder cattle held in feedlot when full)

7. How will premise identification information be used?

The BC Ministry of Agriculture will utilize this information to plan, prevent, prepare for, respond to, or recover from emergencies that threaten animal or public health. This information will only be used for the purposes for which it was collected.

8. How do I apply for a premises identification number?

It is easy to apply. Fill out an application (i.e. Premises Identification Registration Form) and submit it to the Ministry of Agriculture either by dropping it off at the nearest BC Ministry of Agriculture office or submit it by mail to:

BC Ministry of Agriculture
Abbotsford Agriculture Centre
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford, BC
V3G 2M3

9. How do I receive confirmation of my premises identification number?

Once you have submitted your registration form the parcel with its boundaries will be identified on an aerial photo map with geo-coordinates assigned to its centre or a prominent landmark such as a barn. The aerial photo map will be sent to you for confirmation that the information recorded is correct or you will make any necessary corrections and then advise the Ministry of Agriculture. A unique alpha-numeric premises identification number will then be assigned and mailed to you on the updated aerial photo map.

10. What livestock and poultry are included in the program?

Presently, the priority species and premises types are cattle (dairy and beef), poultry (chickens and turkeys), hogs and sheep ranches and farms.

11. Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact your nearest Ministry of Agriculture office or send an email to BCPID@gov.bc.ca. Alternatively, call our Abbotsford office at 1 888-221-7141 or 604 556 3001 and ask for a Premises Identification Program Representative.

12. Do I need a premises identification number for each parcel of land I own or operate with livestock or poultry?

It is recommended that all premises housing livestock or poultry acquire a premises identification number. Based on the Ministry's experience responding to natural disaster emergencies and livestock disease outbreaks a premises registry is only as effective as the information it holds. A premises registry that contains up to date information about the location of all livestock and poultry throughout the province, including multiple parcels of land owned or operated by one operator, will provide everyone with a superior emergency management tool.

However, registration for your primary premises on which the main animal operation is located should be your first priority.

13. What if I have more than one livestock or poultry operation?

If a producer maintains separate operations, it is recommended that each operation has its own primary location registered as a premises and that they are not linked. For example, if a cattle producer

owns both a purebred herd and a commercial herd that are managed at different locations and that are not commingled, each location should be registered as a primary location.

14. If I sell a property, what happens to the Premise ID number?

Once a premises is entered into the registry, the 9 digit unique Premise ID number remains with the physical location, even following a change of ownership. A Premise ID number will be retired only if the property is subdivided or consolidated.

15. Is there a need for latitude and longitude coordinates?

In situations where there are few legal descriptors for a location, it may be necessary to use latitude and longitude coordinates to identify a premises location. Coordinates can be obtained from web mapping applications such as Google Maps or Google Earth.

In Google Maps, zoom in on the location you wish to register as a premises. Right click on that exact location and select "Center Map Here". Now click the "Link to this Page" hyperlink on the Google Maps website (the paper clip looking icon located beside the print and email icons) and copy paste the URL into notepad or an email message. Look for the value of the ll parameter – they are the latitude and longitude of the location (ll=49.229516,-122.647998).

16. What if there is more than one separate livestock operation at one location?

If there is more than one separate operation at the same location, it is recommended that each operation is registered for the premises. There will only be one 9 digit unique Premise ID number assigned to the location, however, emergency contact information, premises types and animal types may vary for each operation and therefore should be registered separately.

17. Do I have to register my premises if I already have a Premise ID number issued by the Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA)?

The geographical locations of these premises have not been validated and therefore it is necessary to register the premises with the BC Ministry of Agriculture. Premise ID numbers issued by CCIA begin with BC33_____. If the BC33_____ number is determined to be valid, it will be entered into the BC Premise Registry and the applicant will receive an aerial photo map of the location as verification. If the BC33_____ number is determined to be invalid, a new BC44 _____ will be issued for the premises.

18. Do I have to register my premises if I already know the Premise ID number for the location?

It is recommended that all individuals who own or lease livestock register the premises for each holding location of their livestock. Although there will only be one 9 digit unique Premise ID number assigned to the location, emergency contact information, premises types and animal types for your operation will be unique and therefore should be registered separately.

19. I have converted my dairy farm to a poultry farm. Do I have to re-register my premises?

Yes. Although 9 digit unique Premise ID number assigned to the location will remain the same, emergency contact information, premises types and animal types for your operation will have changed and therefore should be updated.

20. How much does it cost to apply for a premises identification number?

There is no cost to participate in this program.