

**Import Protocol for Farmed Elk, White-tailed Deer and Mule Deer from
Saskatchewan to Federally Registered Abattoirs in Alberta
FOR SLAUGHTER ONLY**

This protocol was developed cooperatively among Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development, Alberta Sustainable Resources Development, and cervid industry representatives.

Permits to import under this protocol can be requested in writing from the Director of Wildlife, 2nd floor, 9920 – 108 Street, Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2G8.

DEFINITIONS

This protocol is limited to elk (*Cervus elaphus manitobensis*, *C. e. nannodes*, *C. e. nelsoni*, *C. e. roosevelti*), white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), and mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus hemionus*).

ORIGIN & HERD HEALTH

1. All cervids imported shall originate from herds of origin as defined below.
2. Herd of origin is defined as a provincially licensed game farm in Saskatchewan.
3. All animals imported to Alberta for slaughter must come from premises on which 90 percent of the heads of all dead cervids over 12 months of age (both natural deaths & slaughtered animals), have been submitted for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) testing for at least the previous two (2) contiguous years, as verified by Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization (SAFRR). Further to this:
 - (a) Animals originating from or residing on farms that are currently under quarantine or movement restriction for CWD are not eligible for this program.
 - (b) All animals that die in transit or prior to slaughter at the federally registered abattoir, must have their heads removed, placed in a leak proof container, and returned to Saskatchewan for CWD testing.

All pertinent documents (including Import Permit, Export Permit, Federal Transportation Authorization Permit, Livestock Manifest and any other applicable documents) must accompany the animals to the abattoir in Alberta. Copies must be received by Saskatchewan Agriculture, Food and Rural Revitalization; Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development; and the producer prior to transit.

TRANSPORT

4. The transport vehicle used to transport the animals into Alberta shall be thoroughly cleaned and washed prior to loading any animals to ensure that no old bedding or faecal material is present. New, clean bedding can then be added to facilitate transport of animals to Alberta for slaughter. The examiner (as outlined in point 7) shall verify that this has been done.
5. Cervids must be transported in full accordance with Federal Health of Animals Regulations.
6. All transport vehicle doors must have a secondary securing device. If a transport vehicle does not have a double latching system on the door, a secured chain may be used as the secondary securing device.

7. All shipments must be examined to determine proper identification of the animals and ensure the criteria of the protocol have been met. The examination must be conducted by either a Saskatchewan government official (SAFRR) or a veterinarian licensed with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, or his or her registered veterinary technologist. All cervids must have an official Saskatchewan agriculture identification tag and a readable dangle ear tag that is unique within the shipment. All tag numbers must be recorded on the import permit. All doors on the transport vehicle shall be sealed by the examining official.
8. The transport vehicle shall be designed to eliminate opportunities for escape, yet provide adequate ventilation. Open-top vehicles are not permitted. **The transport vehicle must have solid surfaces at least two (2) feet high at the bottom of all walls and doors.**
9. The transport vehicle must be covered by transportation liability insurance.
10. Each male cervid with antlers must be transported in an individual compartment according to the Recommended Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Farm Animals (Farmed Deer – Cervidae) section 5.6 and 5.7.
11. The transport vehicle must take the most direct route to the abattoir using paved roads where possible in Alberta.
12. Alberta Fish & Wildlife (1-800-642-3800 or #3800 on Telus Mobility) and the Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian (1-780-427-3448) must be notified immediately if any game farmed cervids escape either from the transport vehicle or the federally registered abattoir. The escaped animal must be captured or killed immediately and the head submitted to Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development for CWD testing.
13. Immediately prior to transferring the animals to the abattoir kill floor, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) inspector will break the transport vehicle seal. The CFIA inspector shall verify the dangle tags before unloading, and verify the official tags once the animals are slaughtered and the heads are removed.

ABATTOIR

14. The abattoir must be a federally registered establishment in Alberta (currently limited to facilities in Edmonton and Fort McLeod). Other approved facilities may be added by addendum to this protocol.
15. Prior to the arrival of the animals at the abattoir, all runways and chutes at the abattoir shall be made secure enough to prevent the escape or injury of any animals. All windows and outside doors within the animal holding area must be closed while live animals are being moved.
16. All the animals shall be slaughtered in one lot on the same day and all heads placed in a leak proof containers and returned to Saskatchewan in the resealed transportation vehicle for CWD testing at a CFIA-accredited laboratory in Saskatchewan. A copy of the test results must be forwarded to the Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian (fax: 1-780-427-1437, email: gerald.ollis@gov.ab.ca) within 24 hours of the test completion and **before** the carcasses are released. All animals that die in transit prior to slaughter at the federally registered abattoir, must have their heads removed, placed in a leak proof container, and be returned to Saskatchewan for CWD testing. Test results of such animals must be provided to the Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian, as above. The remainder of the carcass is to be condemned and treated as “inedible offal” and disposed of according to the Regulation “Destruction and Disposal of Dead Animals”.
17. Animals must be off-loaded directly onto concrete or other impervious material that can be cleaned and disinfected to prevent contamination from bedding material and excreta. All precautions shall be taken to avoid removing bedding material from the transport vehicle. Any material inadvertently removed shall be collected, returned to the transport vehicle, and removed from Alberta.
18. Any contact between the animals, their bedding/excreta and the ground (i.e. dirt surfaces) is to be avoided. Runways and chutes shall be constructed of a material that prevents animal contact with dirt surfaces and can be cleaned and disinfected following slaughter.

19. Any fecal material deposited in the runway or chutes shall be collected and put in the transport vehicle. It must be removed and disposed of outside Alberta.
20. Animals shall be stunned adjacent to the killing floor (NOT IN THE TRANSPORT VEHICLE) in order to minimize the potential for dragging bedding material onto the ground or runways.
21. All cervids shall be stunned in such a way that does to render any tissues unsuitable for appropriate CWD testing. Slaughter workers must be experienced in cervid slaughter procedures to prevent damage to the base of the brain.
22. Once unloading and killing is completed, the leak proof containers containing the heads shall be loaded on the transport vehicle and the transport vehicle shall be sealed prior to leaving the chutes and remain sealed until after it leaves Alberta. The CFIA inspector shall apply the seal.
23. If for any reason the slaughter cannot occur on the day scheduled, the cervids (elk, white-tailed deer, or mule deer) must be confined to a secure/locked area that is designed to prevent escapes and is constructed of a material that can be cleaned and disinfected. If delays are extended, the animals and all bedding and fecal material must be placed in the sealed transport vehicle and returned to Saskatchewan. A Saskatchewan government official or a veterinarian licensed with the Saskatchewan Veterinary Medical Association, or his or her registered veterinary technologist shall verify the seal on the transport vehicle after the vehicle arrives in Saskatchewan and inform the Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian. If the seal is found to be broken or the truck empty, the Alberta Chief Provincial Veterinarian (1-780-427-3448) and the Alberta Director of Wildlife must be notified immediately (780-427-9503).

INEDIBLE OFFAL

24. All inedible offal and specified risk material shall be collected and placed in leak-proof containers and transported to the respective federal plant's disposal site or returned in sealed, leak proof containers to Saskatchewan.

MEAT AND EDIBLE OFFAL

25. Meat and edible offal shall be held at the abattoir pending the CWD test results and release by the CFIA inspector.