Premises Identification

Premises Identification (ID) is one of the three pillars of the national livestock traceability system, along with animal identification and animal movement. An effective livestock traceability system allows Canada's livestock and poultry industries to respond quickly and keep operating during animal disease events. Premises ID also supports fast and accurate responses to non-disease emergencies that threaten livestock, such as floods, forest fires, or environmental contamination events.

What is a premises? A premises is any parcel of land where livestock, poultry or other farm animals are grown, kept, assembled or disposed of.

Who Should Apply?
Anyone responsible for the care of a farm animal should have a premises ID for the location where the animal is kept. We are all in this together and we all have a responsibility to do our part to support agriculture in BC by protecting the health and safety of farm animals. Natural disasters and animal diseases don't discriminate and can affect any animal at any time. A disease detected on your farm can quickly impact your neighbours and could unintentionally result in serious and potentially devastating impacts on animals.

APPLY FOR A PREMISES ID ACCOUNT

Online
As of March 2016, you can create your own account and register your premises online:
https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/pid-ext/welcome.page

Paper
You can mail, email, or fax a paper registration form to the Ministry. Instructions and a link to download the paper registration form are available here:
www.gov.bc.ca/premisesidprogram

UPDATE A PREMISES ID ACCOUNT

Effective emergency management depends on accurate information. We ask that you update your premises ID account when there are significant changes to your contact information, or the nature of your farm or operation.

Online
You can update your information yourself by using your online access user ID:
https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/pid-ext/

Mail, Phone, Email
You can communicate information changes to the Ministry via mail, phone, or email and our program staff will update your registration on your behalf.

Have a Premises ID but not an online account?
You can create an Online Access User ID by entering an email and creating a password on this web page:
https://apps.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ext/pid-ext/sign.page

For verification, you will also need to enter a phone number submitted on the paper registration form and the 10-digit "Account Number" generated by the system.

Because there is no link between the Premises ID Program and the Land Title Office, please notify us of property sales so we can update the registry.

BCPID, Ministry of Agriculture Phone
1767 Angus Campbell Road
Abbotsford, BC V3GB2M3

Phone: 604-556-3001
Fax: 604-556-3030
BCPID@gov.bc.ca

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Premises ID?
A Premises ID is a unique nine-character code assigned to a single legal land description or land use permit. In British Columbia, all Premises ID numbers start with **BC** (for example: **BC449GP7N**).

Why use a Premises ID?
Use of the Premises ID eliminates confusion for emergency responders. Multiple or incomplete addresses, complicated legal land descriptions, and duplicate or changing farm names can all hinder emergency management efforts.

What does it cost to register?
There is no cost to register your premises. We thank you for taking time to complete the registration.

What is my "Account Number"?
If you applied after March 2016, your "Account Number" can be found on the registration letter or email you received to inform you of your Premises ID.

If you applied before March 2016 or if you have lost or forgotten you "Account Number," please reach out to a Premises ID Program Representative.

What information is collected?
- Address, legal land description or land use permit with geographic coordinates
- Emergency contact information
- Premises type (e.g. farm, community pasture, auction market, abattoir, feedlot, fairground)
- Animal type and maximum capacity for all species that that may be on the premises.

What is meant by "maximum capacity"?
Maximum capacity is not the actual number of animals on the premises at a given time. It is an estimate of the highest number of animals of a given species that the premises could reasonably accommodate. This is used by emergency responders to understand the scale of an operation.

How long will it take to receive my Premises ID and how will I be notified?
Our goal is to notify you by email of your Premises ID within two business days of the receipt of your registration. You will receive your Premises ID immediately if you register online using the nine-digit parcel identifier (PID) from your property assessment notice. If you register with a paper form or use a civic address to specify your location during online registration, Ministry staff will complete your registration for you.

What if I move?
A premises ID is associated with a specific geographical location, not an individual. Upon registration, a premises ID number is assigned to the legal land parcel where the animals are located. Once created, a premises ID number remains permanently with that land parcel and is not transferrable to another location. If you move your animals to a new property, you will be assigned a new premises ID number when you update your account with your new address.

How is my personal information protected?
Protection of personal information is critically important to the Premises ID Program. Per the *Animal Health Act*, premises ID information cannot be disclosed for any purpose except those prescribed in the act. These purposes are strictly limited to use in responding to animal disease or environmental disasters affecting animal health.

What is the difference between Primary Premises and Linked Premises?
The **Primary Premises** is the single parcel defined as the main location of an agricultural operation, also known as the main ranch or home site.

Linked Premises are additional parcels of land within an agricultural operation where livestock may be present. From an animal health perspective, the Primary Premises and all Linked Premises form a single epidemiological unit because of the regular movement of animals between them.

Who can answer my questions?
Ask a Premises ID Program representative at the Ministry of Agriculture in Abbotsford (1-888-221-7141 or 604-556-3001) or send an email to BCPID@gov.bc.ca.

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