

Video Ante-Mortem Inspection (VAMI)

How to access the VAMI online tool

Animals that cannot be transported to an abattoir can receive an ante-mortem inspection via video technology and be humanely slaughtered on site. The VAMI program allows the animal to be inspected according to Alberta's *Meat Inspection Act (MIA)* and Meat Inspection Regulation (MIR) and be sold. Follow the steps in this document to access and use the VAMI online platform.



The VAMI process

1) The requester (for example, a producer or feedlot operator) determines the animal meets the program criteria:

- the animal is unfit for transport or its ability to be transported is compromised,
- the animal cannot be transported without endangering itself, another animal or a person,
- the animal has escaped but is contained in order for a suitable video ante-mortem inspection to be performed

Important note: the life of an animal is not to be extended to meet the VAMI program time frame if it prolongs pain and distress for the animal.

2) The requester contacts the operator of a provincially licensed abattoir to request a VAMI slaughter.

Arrangements must be made with the abattoir operator prior to the stun and bleed of the VAMI animal. The operator may or may not be able to accommodate receipt of the animal.

View our list of [provincially licensed abattoirs](#) and select "Abattoir (red meat)" as the licence type.

3) The operator contacts the Alberta regional supervisor to schedule the inspection.

An approved inspector must be available to conduct both the ante-mortem and the post-mortem inspections of the animal.

4) The operator informs the requester of the date and time of the inspection.

The video ante-mortem inspection may proceed once arrangements are made.

5) The requester logs on to the [VAMI online tool](#).

Learn more about [VAMI](#)

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6) The requester completes the online intake form.

Click on Alberta.ca Account or MyAlberta Digital ID for Business (MADI-B). You will see a window that looks like this for your Alberta.ca Account:


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The MADI-B window may also look like this:

Fill in your username and password. If you do not yet have an account, you can create one on the same page. Once signed in, you will be redirected to the VAMI home page:

Follow the instructions to request a video ante-mortem inspection and submit a video. Some fields are mandatory and marked with a red asterisk. The form cannot be submitted if mandatory information is missing.

7) The requester takes a video of the animal.

When the requester clicks on the “attach video” icon, they have the option to attach a video from their device storage/gallery or to capture a video directly with their camera. The requester can attach additional video or photos as necessary.

8) The inspector views the video.

Learn more about [VAMI](#)

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The video must clearly demonstrate the reason that the animal cannot be transported to an abattoir and why VAMI is necessary. If more information is required, the inspector will call the requester to discuss what is needed prior to them making an inspection decision.

9) The inspector notifies the VAMI requester of the outcome.

There are three possible outcomes to the inspection:

- a) Pass: if the animal passes the ante-mortem inspection, the inspector authorizes the stun and bleed of the animal.
- b) Fail: if the animal does not pass the ante-mortem inspection, it is condemned or held for further direction from the inspector.
- c) Ante-mortem inspection not performed: This option is used if an inspection cannot be performed due to technical difficulties (poor video, failed attachment upload, cell phone dies, etc.). If this scenario occurs, the requester has options to deal with their animal outside of the VAMI process, see Section 4.4 of the [Video Ante-mortem Inspection Technical Guide](#).

10) If the animal passes the video ante-mortem inspection, then it is stunned and bled and the animal is transported to the abattoir.

The animal should NOT be eviscerated (skinned and gutted) until it reaches the abattoir. Only the stun and bleed occurs at the site of the ante-mortem inspection. After a “pass” on ante mortem inspection, the requester must complete the form by entering the time of the stun and bleed and then clicking the declaration box.

Stun and bleed

☐ I declare that the animal described above was slaughtered following best practices by the following individual at the time indicated.

Who performed stun and bleed?

-- None --

Name

Actual time of stun and bleed

11) The requester delivers the animal to the abattoir within two hours of the stun and bleed.

The evisceration is completed as soon as possible upon arrival at the abattoir.

12) Post-mortem inspection is conducted.

If the carcass passes the post-mortem inspection, it proceeds to chilling and processing, as per facility procedures. If the carcass does not pass the post-mortem inspection, the carcass is disposed of, according to abattoir procedures.

Note: The abattoir operator has the choice to accept the animal into their facility.

An operator may be unable to complete the slaughter and/or may not have the cooler space to chill the carcass. The requester may be required to contact another operator if this occurs.