



## Premises Identification (PID) Regulations Frequently Asked Questions

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### Definitions

1. **What is a Premises?**  
A premises is a land location where animals are bred, kept, raised, displayed, assembled or disposed of.
2. **What is a PID Account?**  
A PID Account is a summary of the information related to an animal owner or commingling site operator, including contact information and the location of the animals. A PID Account relates to the applicant and can contain several PID Numbers for different locations where animals are located.

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3. **What is a PID Number?**

A PID Number is a nine character unique identifier (consisting of a combination of numbers and letters) that is associated with a specific land location. Alberta PID Numbers start with the letter 'A'.

4. **What is a Commingling Site?**

A commingling site is a location, other than a farm or a ranch, where animals owned by different owners are kept together either temporarily or permanently. (Examples: boarding stable, community pasture, feedlot, etc.)

5. **What is Maximum Capacity?**

Maximum capacity is not the actual number of animals on the premises. Rather, it is an estimate of the highest number of animals (of the selected species) that the operation(s) on the premises could reasonably accommodate. This information, used in conjunction with the type of species on the premises, allows emergency responders to prepare and respond appropriately.

### General Questions

6. **Why is premises identification important?**

Premises identification is an important part of an effective traceability system and emergency management plan. In an animal health event, having animal locations and other key information in one system is critical for quick, accurate and cost-effective emergency response for the safety of animals and people.

### Having a PID Account

7. **Who needs to apply for a PID Account?**

Under Alberta's Premises Identification Regulation, if you own a livestock animal or poultry, and that animal is kept at a premises other than a commingling site (e.g. stable), you need to apply for a PID Account and register at least one PID Number associated to where the animal(s) are located. Although you may view your livestock as a pet or companion animal, it is important to obtain a PID Account because your animal can still receive and/or transmit disease. Even if you only own one animal, it is still necessary to obtain a PID Account.

If you operate a commingling site (e.g. stable, community pasture, fair ground, etc.), you are required to obtain a PID Account, register all your commingling sites and provide the PID Number(s) to the users of your site(s).

8. **When do I need to apply for a PID Account?**

Every animal owner (except one whose animals are ONLY kept on someone else's commingling site) and every operator of a commingling site must register with the PID system within 30 days of assuming ownership of an animal, or operation of a commingling site.

9. **What species of animals are included under premises identification?**

Any animal in captivity designated in the regulation, including livestock and/or poultry, needs to be recorded under your premises. For a complete listing of the species please see Schedule A, Part 7 of the PID Application or the Alberta Premises Identification Regulation.

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10. **Do I need a PID Account if I only have one animal?**

Yes, you need a PID Account because even one animal can receive and transmit infectious diseases that can affect your herd/flock, neighbouring animals and sometimes the entire industry. Having an up-to-date PID Account ensures that you will be contacted in the case of an animal emergency situation.

11. **Which premises do I need to register?**

Operators of commingling sites are required to register all their commingling sites and obtain a PID Number for each premises. Animal owners that take care of their own animals are required to have at least one premises registered, preferably the main animal operation. It is beneficial for animal owners to register additional premises in the PID System, particularly those away from the main operation, to ensure they are still notified if an emergency happens in that area. Animal owners can register each premises by completing a separate Schedule A.

12. **Do I need to maintain my PID Account information?**

Yes. Every animal owner (except one whose animals are ONLY kept on someone else's commingling site) and every operator of a commingling site must record any change to the information in their PID Account within 30 days of the change.

### Application and Account

13. **What information do applicants need to provide?**

An applicant must provide:

- Applicant name and contact information (telephone number, address, email if available)
- Emergency 24/7 contact information for the premises
- Location of the premises (e.g. legal land description or geo-referenced coordinates)
- Type of operation (e.g. farm, abattoir, etc.)
- Species of animals raised, kept, displayed, assembled, and disposed of on the premises
- Maximum capacity of the premises for each species of animal

14. **How can I apply for a PID Account?**

There are two ways to apply:

- Online

You can register your own account and maintain your account information online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)

Click the "Apply or Sign-In Online!" button to apply.

- Paper/Hardcopy Application

A paper application form can be obtained from:

- Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development (ARD) Field Offices throughout Alberta
- Canadian Cattle Identification Agency (CCIA) Mobile Field Representatives (effective November 2014)
- Authorized Medicine Retailers (effective December 1, 2014)

You can also call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM to request that a form be mailed or faxed to you.

You can also print it from ARD's Ropin' the Web at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)

15. **After applying for a PID Account, how do I find out my PID Number?**

After applying, the account contact will receive a letter in the mail within one to two weeks that will include the PID Number(s) for each individually registered premises. Retain this letter for your records. If you applied online, your PID Number will appear in your online account within 3-5 business days. If you require your PID Number in the meantime, please contact 310-FARM (3276).

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### 16. **How do I update my account?**

It is the responsibility of producers to keep their information up-to-date. Update your information within 30 days of any change. You can update your information in one of two ways:

- Online

You can update your account yourself online at:

[www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)

Click the "Apply or Sign-In Online" button to log-in and access your account.

- Paper Application

An account can be updated using a paper application form, which can be obtained from:

- ARD Field Offices throughout Alberta

- CCIA Mobile Field Representatives

- Authorized Medicine Retailers

You can also call the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM to request a form be mailed or faxed to you. You can print it from ARD's Ropin' the Web at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises)

## Using a PID Number

### 17. **When will I need to use PID Numbers?**

PID Numbers are required or asked for on many transportation documents when transporting your animals. PID Numbers are also required when buying medications at a licensed retail outlet or when selling animals at an auction market. Agriculture programs and grants may also request your PID Number as part of their eligibility requirements.

## Information Access and Use

### 18. **How is the premises identification information being used?**

The PID System has a variety of uses including planning for, controlling and preventing the spread of an animal disease. It is also used to notify animal owners of an impending emergency, such as a flood or fire that could affect their animals.

### 19. **Will my information be kept confidential?**

Your information is protected under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP Act) and the Animal Health Act (AHA). It may be used or disclosed to authorized individuals, in accordance with the AHA, for the purposes set out in the AHA including to plan for or respond to an animal health emergency or to validate premises information held in the system.

## Additional Help

### 20. **What should I do if I forgot my PID Number?**

If you forgot your PID Number, please contact 310-FARM (3276) for assistance.

### 21. **What should I do if my information changes?**

Information associated to a PID Account needs to be updated within 30 days of any change. This includes changes to contact information, animal types, maximum capacity, etc. It is vital that information is updated as it changes so you can receive the best service and support from emergency responders.

### 22. **What happens if I have forgotten my password to access my online PID Account?**

Contact the Ag-Info Centre at 310-FARM (3276) and they will reset your password.

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23. **Where can I obtain more copies of the PID Account Form, Schedule A or Schedule B?**

The paper application and schedules are available online at [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises). You can also visit your local ARD Field Office or CCIA Mobile Field Representative at auction markets for copies.

24. **Where can I get more information?**

For more information on the PID Program including regulations, contact the Alberta Ag-Info Centre toll-free at 310-FARM (3276), a local ARD Field Office, or visit [www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises](http://www.agriculture.alberta.ca/premises).