

1997 BILL 4

First Session, 24th Legislature, 46 Elizabeth II

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ALBERTA

BILL 4

MEAT INSPECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 1997¹

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE,
FOOD AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

First Reading

Second Reading

Committee of the Whole

Third Reading

Royal Assent

Bill 4

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1997

MEAT INSPECTION AMENDMENT ACT, 1997

(Assented to , 1997)

HER MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, enacts as follows:

Amends RSA
1980 cM-10

1 The *Meat Inspection Act* is amended by this Act.

2 Section 1 is amended

(a) by repealing clause (a) and substituting the following:

(a) "abattoir" means a premises or facility, including a multi-location abattoir,

(i) where animals are slaughtered, or

(ii) where animals are slaughtered and any or all of the following take place:

(A) meat is cut;

(B) meat is wrapped;

(C) meat is frozen;

(D) meat is cured;

(E) meat is smoked;

(F) meat is aged;

(b) by repealing clause (b) and substituting the following:

Explanatory Notes

1 Amends chapter M-10 of the Revised Statutes of Alberta 1980.

2 Section 1 presently reads in part:

1 In this Act,

- (a) *“abattoir” means premises where animals are slaughtered and premises where animals are slaughtered and meat is cut, wrapped, frozen, cured, smoked or aged;*
- (b) *“animal” means an animal the meat of which is intended to be used for human consumption and includes poultry and rabbits;*
- (e) *“inspector” means an inspector appointed under this Act and includes a veterinary inspector;*
- (g) *“Minister” means the Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development;*
- (g.1) *“mobile butcher” means a person who slaughters a producer’s animals or who assists a producer in slaughtering the producer’s animals, the meat from which is not inspected and is intended for consumption by that producer and the members of his immediate household;*
- (h) *“poultry” means chickens, ducks, geese, turkeys and other birds;*

(b) “animal” means an animal, including a bird, the meat of which is intended to be used for human consumption;

(c) by repealing clause (e) and substituting the following:

(e) “inspector” means an inspector under this Act;

(d) by adding the following after clause (f):

(f.1) “meat facility” means an abattoir, mobile butcher or slaughter operation or any facility or operation that converts carcasses, primal cuts of meat, or both, into saleable products;

(e) by repealing clause (g) and substituting the following:

(g) “Minister” means the Minister determined under section 16 of the *Government Organization Act* as the Minister responsible for this Act;

(f) by repealing clause (g.1) and substituting the following:

(g.1) “mobile butcher” means a person who slaughters an owner’s animal on the owner’s premises or assists an owner in slaughtering the owner’s animal on the owner’s premises;

(g) by adding the following after clause (g.1):

(g.2) “multi-location abattoir” is an abattoir that is portable and that may be mounted on a vehicle;

(g.3) “police officer” means police officer as defined in the *Police Act*;

(h) by repealing clause (h).

3 Section 2(1) is repealed and the following is substituted:

Inspectors

2(1) The director may appoint veterinarians registered under the *Veterinary Profession Act* and other persons as inspectors.

4 Section 3 is repealed and the following is substituted:

3 Section 2(1) presently reads:

2(1) The Minister may appoint veterinary inspectors and other inspectors as may be required for the administration of this Act.

4 Section 3 presently reads:

Inspectors

3 All medical officers of health and all executive officers under the *Public Health Act* and the *Regional Health Authorities Act* are by virtue of their offices inspectors under this Act within the areas of their jurisdictions.

5 Section 7(1) is repealed and the following is substituted:

Animal inspections

7(1) An operator of an abattoir or of a meat facility other than a mobile butcher may apply to the Director to have ante-mortem and post-mortem inspections of animals conducted.

6 Section 8 is amended by repealing subsection (1) and substituting the following:

Inspection

8(1) The Director, an inspector or a police officer, at any reasonable hour, without a warrant, may enter any facility, premises or building

- (a) that is not a private dwelling place, and
- (b) that is licensed under this Act or if the Director, inspector or police officer believes on reasonable and probable grounds that activities are carried on at the facility, premises or building that are the subject-matter of licensing under this Act,

and may inspect the facility, premises or building and inspect and copy any records it contains related to matters regulated by this Act to ensure that the requirements of this Act are complied with.

(1.1) If the Director, an inspector or a police officer believes on reasonable and probable grounds that a private dwelling place is used for the processing or storing of meat for sale, the Director, inspector or police officer may

- (a) in accordance with a warrant from a justice, or
- (b) at any reasonable time with the consent of the owner or occupant,

enter the private dwelling place and inspect it and inspect and copy any records it contains related to matters regulated by this Act to ensure that the requirements of this Act are complied with.

(1.2) When it appears to a justice, on information laid before the justice on oath by the Director, an inspector or a

3 Every medical officer of health of a health unit under the Public Health Act or of a health region under the Regional Health Authorities Act is by virtue of his office an inspector under this Act within the area of his jurisdiction.

5 Section 7(1) presently reads:

7(1) An operator of an abattoir may apply to the Director to have animal and meat inspections conducted at the abattoir.

6 Section 8 presently reads:

8(1) For the purpose of carrying out his duties under this Act, the Director or an inspector may, with or without a warrant, enter any premises or building at any reasonable hour and may inspect the premises or building and any animal or meat therein.

(2) No person shall hinder or obstruct the Director or an inspector in the course of his duties or furnish him with false information, or refuse to furnish him with information.

police officer, that there are reasonable and probable grounds for believing that a private dwelling place is being used for the processing or storing of meat for sale, the justice may issue a warrant authorizing the Director, inspector or police officer to enter the private dwelling place and inspect the private dwelling place and inspect and copy any records it contains related to matters regulated by this Act to ensure that the requirements of this Act are complied with.

(1.3) While carrying out an inspection, the Director, an inspector or a police officer must on request produce identification and explain the inspection powers and duties under this Act.

(1.4) To ensure that the requirements of this Act are complied with, the Director, an inspector or a police officer may demand from the owner or operator of a facility, premises or building

- (a) that is licensed under this Act, or
- (b) where the Director, inspector or police officer believes on reasonable and probable grounds that activities are carried on that are the subject-matter of licensing under this Act,

the production, within a reasonable time, of records related to matters regulated by this Act and may, on giving a receipt for them, remove them for not more than 48 hours for the purpose of making copies of them.

(1.5) A person may comply with subsection (1.4) by providing copies of the records.

(1.6) If a person on whom a demand is made under subsection (1.4) refuses or fails to comply, the Director, inspector or police officer may apply to a judge of the Court of Queen's Bench by way of originating notice, and the judge may make any order that the judge considers necessary to enforce compliance with subsection (1.4).

(1.7) A copy of the originating notice and a copy of each affidavit in support of it must be served not less than 3 days before the day named in the notice for hearing the application.

7 Section 11 is amended

- (a) in clause (a) by adding “and meat facilities” after “abattoirs”;**

7 Section 11 presently reads in part:

11 The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations

- (b) in clause (d) by striking out “abattoirs and the operation of abattoirs” and substituting “abattoirs and meat facilities and the operation and location of abattoirs and meat facilities”;**
- (c) in clause (e) by adding “and meat facilities” after “abattoirs”;**
- (d) in clause (h) by adding “and of meat facilities” after “abattoirs”;**
- (e) in clause (j) by adding “or meat facility” after “abattoir”;**
- (f) in clause (k) by adding “and meat facilities” after “abattoirs”;**
- (g) in clauses (l) and (m) by adding “and meat facility” after “abattoir”.**

8 Section 12 is amended by striking out “abattoir” and substituting “abattoir or meat facility”.

- (a) providing for the issue, renewal, suspension or revocation of or refusal to issue or renew licences to mobile butchers and to operate abattoirs;*
- (d) respecting the facilities and equipment to be provided and maintained at abattoirs and the operation of abattoirs;*
- (e) respecting cleanliness and sanitation at abattoirs;*
- (h) prescribing the records to be made, submitted and kept by operators of abattoirs and by mobile butchers;*
- (j) prescribing the terms and conditions under which animals and meat may be inspected at any abattoir;*
- (k) governing hearings and appeals on applications for inspections at abattoirs;*
- (l) providing for the stamping with an inspection legend at an abattoir of meat that is fit for human consumption;*
- (m) providing for the labelling at an abattoir of meat that is fit for human consumption;*

8 Section 12 presently reads:

12 The Minister may make regulations prescribing the fee payable for a licence to operate an abattoir or as a mobile butcher and for any renewal of the licence and the fees payable for inspections of animals or carcasses under this Act.