

Alberta's Humane Catching & Transportation Standards Manual Updates Background & Overview

A. BACKGROUND

The Catching Manual Working Group, which includes members of the ACP board and staff, processors, catchers and transporters, meet annually to review the Alberta Humane Catching & Transportation Standards Manual.

The Working Group met on February 4, 2021, and hand washing and toilet facilities were the primary focus of discussion. While there are already standard requirements for hand washing facilities to be provided on farm for catchers in the Manual, toilet facilities are a new aspect and are important to our industry partners. Our ACP members of the Working Group conducted an assessment of the current situation between February – May 2021 to inform our discussions and subsequent amendments to the Manual that have been approved by the Board for implementation.

Summary of the findings from this assessment:

- 55-75% of farms have toilet facilities available; some farms currently offer a toilet in the house, which poses challenges in terms of health and safety as well as accessibility
- 75-100% of farms have hand-washing facilities available, ranging from sink with running water to a hose with bucket

Considerations:

- Handwashing facilities and a sheltered rest area are already identified as Minimum Standards for producer responsibilities in the Manual; this section could be reviewed for greater clarity and more focus placed on educating producers about these provisions. A process for addressing issues or damages to facilities could be further clarified in the Communications Framework in the Manual.
- Catching crews have identified several issues with carrying their own toilet facilities:
 - Cost prohibitive: requires purchase of trailers and port-a-potties, plus mileage and hourly rate for driver(s)
 - Liability: additional insurance costs for trailer and driver
 - Logistics: trailer(s) could have large geographic area to cover in one night for crews with multiple farms to catch
- In terms of toilet facilities:
 - In requiring producers to provide toilet facilities on their premises, it is important to strike a balance between meeting catchers' needs and doing what is practical for farms
 - Principles should be used to guide the outcomes rather than implement a prescriptive, "one-size fits all" approach; needs to provide flexibility for producers and include responsibilities for each party.

6 Principles to Guide the Provision of On-Farm Toilet Facilities as a Minimum Standard:

1. Readily accessible on the premise and clearly identified to catchers– catchers should know where the facilities are and have quick access to them when needed
2. Private: enclosed facility that provides user with dignity
3. Equipped: stocked with toilet paper; soap / toweling and / or hand sanitizer
4. Clean: sanitary
5. Well-maintained: safe to use and access; also lends to cleanliness and privacy
6. Meets the needs of all crew members

B. CHANGES TO THE MANUAL

1. Responsibilities of Each Party in Meeting the 6 Principles

Producers:

- o Communicate upfront with crew supervisor as to where toilet and handwashing facilities are located: could be verbal at the start of catching and/or via visible signage.
- o Provide a private, clean, well-maintained toilet/privy, that can be locked and is equipped with toilet paper and readily accessible to catchers on the premise*.

Meaning the facility is:

- Readily accessible on the premise and clearly identified to catchers– catchers should know where they facilities are and have quick access to them when needed
- Private: enclosed facility that provides user with dignity and can be locked
- Equipped: stocked with toilet paper; soap / toweling and / or hand sanitizer
- Clean: sanitary and cleaned prior to catching commencing
- Well-maintained: safe to use and access; also lends to cleanliness and privacy
- Provided in a manner that meets the needs of all crew members

**Notes: (1) It is important to allow a range of options for producers to meet the principles
(2) The Board has identified a deadline of September 30, 2022 to provide time
for producers to meet this Standard.*

Catchers:

- o Respect and use facility properly
- o Leave facility in at least as good of condition as at arrival (i.e. clean up messes)
- o Ensure they are aware of where facilities are located (ask if not sure)
- o Keep facilities clean and maintained when onsite for catching

Processors:

- o Ensure requirements are consistent; prevent provisions for Catching and Loading from becoming a competitive issue
- o Assist in addressing concerns or issues that may arise, including facilities not being provided and catching crew not leaving facility in good condition
- o Supporting the industry in implementing new standards (collaborating, communicating, etc.)

2. Process for Addressing Damage to Facilities:

A detailed process for addressing damage to facilities has been added under the Communications Framework of the Manual (pg. 3-4). The process is as follows:

1. Catching crews must notify the Producer of any damage (major or minor).
2. The damage / issue should be documented on the Catching Load-out Report at the end of the catch.
3. It is expected that the Catching Crew Supervisor and Producer will first have a conversation and attempt to resolve any issues between themselves.
4. If resolution is not reached through these channels of communication, the Conflict Resolution Process in Section 3 of this Manual may be initiated by either party.

CHANGES TO MANUAL:

Enclosed is a copy of the Manual with the changes in red text on pages: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10 & 15.

C. IMPLEMENTATION OF CHANGES

1. With the exception of the new requirement for toilet facilities, all other changes to the Manual take effect as of November 1, 2021

- Where a minimum standard is not upheld by any party, the process outlined in the Communications Framework in the Manual and the Conflict Resolution Process in the Manual may be utilized to address the issue.

2. New toilet facilities requirement: September 30, 2022

- The Board has identified a deadline of September 30, 2022 to provide time for producers to meet this Standard.
- If this requirement is not met after September 30, 2022, the process outlined in the Communications Framework in the Manual and the Conflict Resolution Process in the Manual may be utilized to address the issue.