

**THE APPLICATION OF THE ALBERTA BUILDING CODE
TO BUILDINGS LOCATED ON FARMS**

This Information Bulletin clarifies the meaning of the term *farm building*. The Alberta Building Code does not apply to *farm buildings* with the exception of the buildings listed in section 2.

1. Farm Buildings

A *farm building* is a building that

- does not contain a residential occupancy,
- is located on land used as a farm, or is zoned for agricultural use and directly supports the primary farm operation,
- has a low occupant load, and
- is not used or occupied by, or expected to be used or occupied by, the public or persons, **other than** the farmer or farmers that own the building, their immediate family, and/or their employees, that may be in the building from time to time,

and the building is used for

- housing livestock,
- storing, sorting, grading or bulk packaging primary agricultural products, or
- housing, storing or maintaining machinery associated with the operation of the farm on which it is located.

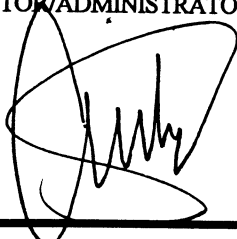
Note: Appendix A of the Alberta Building Code and the National Farm Building Code of Canada may be referred to for additional information.

2. Exceptions

Part 7 of the Alberta Building Code only applies to *farm buildings* used as abattoirs, meat processing plants, or dairy manufacturing plants (dairy manufacturing plant is defined in the Alberta Building Code).

ISSUE OF THIS INFORMATION
BULLETIN IS AUTHORIZED
BY THE DIRECTOR/ADMINISTRATOR.

C. M. TYE




SAFETY CODES COUNCIL



3. Professional Engineering

Alberta Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council **strongly recommend** *farm buildings* that

- use structural spans exceeding the span tables included in the Alberta Building Code,
- use non-traditional construction techniques,
- are not constructed primarily of wood, or
- can be considered complex structures because of unique design, geophysical, environmental or process-related conditions,

be designed and their construction inspected by a professional engineer who is a member in good standing with the Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta.

4. The National Farm Building Code of Canada

The National Farm Building Code of Canada may be used as a guide to good design and construction for *farm buildings* but it is not a mandatory code in Alberta. Design criteria for some aspects of *farm buildings*, like grain, silage and livestock loads are not readily available from sources other than the National Farm Building Code of Canada.