



Summary of Code Requirements

The following is a list of the Requirements within the sheep Code of Practice. Refer to the cited Code section for further context about the Requirements.

SECTION 1 Environmental Conditions

1.1 Introduction

- Producers must promptly assist individual sheep displaying signs of heat or cold stress.
- Sheep entering the flock that come from a different environment or production system must be monitored closely during the acclimation period and action taken to help promote their health and welfare as required.
- Develop a contingency plan for extreme and sudden changes to weather conditions and be prepared to put the plan into action within hours. Be prepared to relocate the sheep, giving priority for shelter to the most vulnerable.

1.1.1 High Temperature, and Humidity, and Provision of Shade

- Producers must plan for elevated heat conditions and take steps to mitigate heat stress by:
 - monitoring frequently for individual animals showing signs of heat stress
 - providing shade (e.g. allowing access to treed area, bringing in wagons, erecting a canopy, stacking bales)
 - ensuring adequate access to clean, fresh drinking water (demands for water will increase during hot weather (See *Section 3.2 Water*))
 - avoiding the handling and moving of sheep during the heat of the day
 - allowing sheep to rest during the heat of the day (e.g. allow rest breaks as needed if trailing sheep long distances)
 - selecting an appropriate shearing season.

1.1.2 Provision of Shelter during Cold and Windy, and Cold and Wet Conditions

- Sheep must have access to shelter, either natural or man-made, that provides appropriate relief for the regional and seasonal climatic conditions and is appropriate for the individual production system. Properly designed and maintained hedgerows and windbreaks can be adequate, as can natural land features (e.g. lee side of a hill, bush, gully, coulees) for certain classes of animals.
- Producers must plan the lambing period for the available shelter and to match local climatic conditions (e.g. provide shelter for young lambs and freshly shorn sheep).
- Special considerations for management and shelter during lambing will be required under some conditions. (See *Section 5.11 on Pregnancy, Lambing and Neonatal Care*).
- When planning for extreme weather events and winter management, a producer must consider and be able to:
 - manage their flock to minimize the risk of hypothermia
 - monitor flock closely for signs of cold stress and take immediate action to provide relief if it occurs
 - relocate sheep to a sheltered area or shed
 - provide more feed (energy)
 - provide extra bedding where appropriate
 - manage timing of shearing events to minimize risk of hypothermia (e.g. if bad weather is predicted, make alternate arrangements such as delaying shearing or increasing available shelter).



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

SECTION 2 Facilities

2.1 Housing and Handling for all Sheep

- Barriers, pen dividers, other penning or handling structures, must be suitable for sheep and maintained and cleaned to minimize potential illness and injury (e.g. ensure there are no sharp edges and projections that might injure sheep).
- All applicable equipment and services including water bowls and troughs, ventilating fans, heating and lighting units, milking machines, fire extinguishers and alarm systems must be inspected and cleaned regularly and kept in good working order.
- Feeding equipment must be suitable and safe for the type of sheep.
- Sheep must not be housed on solid concrete floors without providing adequate bedding.

For sheep handling:

- Producers and stockpeople must have access to equipment for safe handling, treatment, restraint, segregation, loading and unloading of sheep. (See also *Section 4.2 Stockmanship Skills Related to Animal Health and Welfare*).
- Handling area must have surfaces that provide good traction.
- Handling systems must be designed to utilize natural sheep behaviour and managed to minimize unnecessary noise. (Refer to *Section 5.1 Handling, Grouping and Moving Animals*).
- Equipment must be maintained in good repair.

In housing, grazing and loafing areas:

- There must be sufficient space for all animals to simultaneously lie down and ruminate, stand up, turn around, adopt resting postures and move around easily.
- Producers must be able to make provisions for a hospital pen/area when required.
- All sheep must have access to a well-drained lying area. Constantly standing in mud is not acceptable.
- Housed sheep must have access to a dry lying area.

2.1.1 Temperature, Humidity and Air Quality

- Indoor air quality and temperature must be maintained at levels to promote good health and welfare of sheep.
- When ammonia concentrations at sheep level exceed 25ppm, take immediate action.
- Producers must consider prevailing winds when constructing shelter for sheep to ensure adequate airflow and protection from cold winds.

2.1.2 Social Environment and Enrichment

- Sheep must have visual contact with other sheep.

2.1.3 Lighting

- Sheep housed indoors must be exposed to a natural daylight cycle (using either artificial or natural light), except for breeding animals under a controlled light regime.
- Lighting must be sufficient to allow appropriate care and inspection by stockpeople.

2.1.4 Bedding and Manure Management

- Bedding must be provided in all buildings used for rearing sheep, with the exception of systems using slotted floors.
- Bedding must be clean and dry.
- Sheep must not be housed on solid concrete floors without providing adequate bedding.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

- When lambing inside in cold temperatures, extra bedding must be provided.
- Where waste is stored, it must be stored in a manner to avoid run off getting into sheep housing areas, water sources, or feed and bedding supplies; or attracting scavengers to the housing area.

SECTION 3 Feed and Water

3.1 Nutrition and Feed Management

- Ensure sheep have sufficient access to feed (including salt and minerals) of adequate quality and quantity to maintain them in good health, fulfill their nutritional and physiological needs and promote a positive state of well-being and vigour. The quality and quantity of feed required will depend on factors such as: age, frame size and body condition, reproductive status, health status, level of production, competition and weather.
- Where salt and mineral are supplemented, it must be formulated specifically for sheep and suited to the geographical region.
- With the exception of feedlot lambs, sheep must have access to forage.
- All sheep kept in confinement must be inspected at least once a day to ensure the availability of feed and water.
- Monitor animal performance, behaviour, body condition score and health on an ongoing basis and adjust the feeding program accordingly if the average body condition score of the flock falls below the target for the stage of production (refer to Table 3.1) seek the help of a nutritionist or veterinarian if required.
- Take corrective action when the body condition score for individual sheep with a score of less than 2 out of 5 for meat breeds and 1.5 out of 5 for dairy/prolific breeds of sheep. (See also *Section 4.4 Sick, Injured or Cull Animals*).
- Producers must provide alternative feed for winter-grazing sheep that no longer have easy access to forages due to heavy or crusted snow or severe weather conditions.
- Particular attention must be paid when feeding a high energy diet to prevent health problems such as grain overload, bloat, or other diseases. Diet changes must be made gradually.
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent exposure of sheep to toxins (e.g. weeds toxic to sheep, lead batteries, fertilizer, treated seed, antifreeze, nitrates) and to feed with physical qualities (e.g. awns) that could cause injury or limit intake.

3.1.2 Artificial Rearing

- Newborn lambs that are taken from their dams must receive colostrum within six hours of birth. (See also *Section 5.11 Pregnancy, Lambing and Neonatal Care*).
- Milk replacer used must be formulated for lambs.
- Artificially-reared lambs must receive a volume and quality of milk replacer to promote health, growth and vigour.
- Prior to being weaned, lambs must be consuming adequate amounts of clean water and solid feed daily to ensure health, growth and vigour.

3.2 Water

- Sheep must have daily access to a source that provides sufficient clean and palatable water to satisfy their water intake needs.
- Watering systems must be suitable for the sheep.
- Snow is not an acceptable source of water for wethers, feedlot lambs and lactating ewes.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

- Snow is acceptable as a sole water source for the breeding flock if:
 - it provides sufficient water each day to satisfy their water intake needs
 - the sheep do not show signs of dehydration
 - the sheep are gradually acclimated early in the cold season
 - the sheep are healthy, non-lactating and maintain a good body condition i.e. a score of 3 or higher
 - feed intakes remain at levels that promote health and welfare
 - the sheep have the physical ability to move to clean snow and eat it
 - the snow is not hard packed, trampled or soiled
 - all sheep, their environment and snow conditions are monitored daily and
 - a back-up water source can be made available without delay, either by moving the sheep to an area with a source of water or by hauling water if the snow source becomes unsuitable because of trampling, soiling or winter thaws etc.
- Ice alone is not an adequate source of water whether outside or in watering devices.
- Where hand-watering is employed, producers must provide enough water and sufficient access to meet consumption demands of all individual sheep.
- Producer must ensure all sheep in the flock can easily walk to and access an adequate source of water.
- Troughs must be designed and installed in such a way as to ensure young lambs cannot get into them and drown.
- Inspect watering devices daily to ensure they are functioning and not frozen.

SECTION 4 Health Management

4.1 Relationship of Animal Health to Animal Welfare

- Keep accurate and detailed animal health records.

4.2 Stockmanship Skills Related to Animal Health and Welfare

- All people working with sheep must have access to a copy of this Code.
- Producers must have the resources for and knowledge of the basics of care as stated in this Code and ensure such care is provided.
- Stockpeople must be familiar with and provide the basics of care as stated in this Code.
- The stockperson responsible for the monitoring and care of the sheep must be knowledgeable of basic sheep behaviour and common signs of illness and injury.
- Stockpeople must take responsibility to become competent across a range of health and welfare skills, including body condition scoring.
- All producers are responsible for ensuring all stockpeople working with the sheep are trained.
- All producers and stockpeople must understand the reporting requirement for reportable diseases and immediately consult the flock veterinarian when suspected cases occur.
- Sheep must be monitored at intervals sufficient to ensure well-being in accordance with all sections of this Code.
- The frequency of inspection will depend on factors that affect sheep welfare at any particular time, such as housing, lambing, predation, fly-strike, introduction of new sheep and adverse weather conditions and must be at least daily.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

4.3 Veterinary Care and Flock Management Programs

- All producers must have a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship (VCPR) with a licensed veterinarian. (See *Appendix C: Accessing Veterinary Services*).
- Producers must have a flock health and welfare plan.

4.4 Sick, Injured or Cull Animals

- All stockpeople must be knowledgeable of normal sheep behaviour and signs of illness, injury and disease; or work in conjunction with an experienced stockperson.
- Stockpeople must not cause, nor allow, unnecessary pain or unnecessary distress by leaving a sheep to suffer.
- Sick, injured, or diseased sheep must receive prompt treatment and nursing care, or be euthanized immediately. The treatment must be appropriate for the condition. If in doubt about the sheep's health or the most effective treatment, consult a veterinarian without delay.
- For sick, injured, or diseased sheep that are not responding to treatment producers must, without delay, obtain veterinary advice on appropriate care and treatment or euthanize the sheep.
- Surgeries other than those referenced in *Section 5 Husbandry Practices* and first aid, must be performed by a licensed veterinarian.
- Monitoring of sick, injured or diseased sheep must be appropriate for the condition and at least daily.
- Sick, injured, or diseased animals must be segregated where it is advantageous for treatment or to limit disease transmission.

4.4.1 Fly-Strike

- Sheep affected by fly-strike must receive prompt treatment.
- Producers must understand the basic biology of the blowflies that cause strikes.
- Producers must determine the relative risk of fly-strike based on:
 - predisposing environmental factors
 - predisposing sheep traits
 - relative risk factors (dags and long tails; wet wool in warm, humid conditions; footrot, open wounds)
 - the seasonal presence of blowflies.
- Producers must take steps to reduce the attraction of flies to sheep:
 - consider the risk of fly-strike in the risk/benefit analysis when deciding to tail dock (Refer to *Section 5.7 Tail Docking* for more information)
 - preventing diarrhea or treating it quickly if cases do occur and crutching accordingly
 - cleaning and treating wounds quickly
 - shearing animals before fly season.
- Monitor flock for fly-strike as soon as fly season begins and during prolonged damp and humid weather.

4.4.2 Parasite Control

- Producers must understand the basic biology of parasites that affect sheep.
- Stockpeople must monitor flock for signs of internal/external parasitism.
- Parasite control and treatment strategies must be developed and implemented on-farm; work with the flock veterinarian to develop a control strategy tailored to the farm location and management.
- Parasite control and treatment strategies for tapeworms (i.e. *Cysticercus ovis*) in dogs must be developed and implemented on farm.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

4.4.3 Lameness

- Producers must monitor flock closely for lame sheep.
- Stockpeople must be able to recognize lameness, assess severity and take prompt action to resolve the lameness as quickly as possible.
- Producers must avoid maintaining sheep in wet or muddy conditions for long periods of time.
- Producers must consult their flock veterinarian regarding appropriate treatment and control strategies, which may include pain control.
- Chronically lame sheep must be culled (see *Section 6.1.1 Fitness for Transport*), euthanized or under the direct care of a veterinarian.

SECTION 5 Husbandry Practices

5.1 Handling, Grouping and Moving Animals

- All stockpeople must be competent in sheep handling techniques and have an understanding of sheep behaviour, or be under the direct supervision of an experienced stockperson.
- Stockpeople must work calmly and quietly with sheep at all times; this includes minimizing noise (e.g. from people, herding dogs and equipment) as much as possible.
- Plan procedures to minimize the frequency, duration and degree of restraint.
- Sheep must be handled at all times in such a way as to minimize the risk of pain, injury, or distress. For example sheep must not be:
 - dragged or lifted by the fleece, tail, legs, ears, neck or horns
 - grabbed by the fleece
 - held on their side or back for more than a few minutes at a time especially if the rumen is full or if they are heavily pregnant.
- Electric prods are ineffective and must not be used on sheep.
- Mistreating animals is unacceptable. This includes, but is not limited to: kicking, striking, slamming gates on sheep.
- Electro-immobilization must not be used.
- Stockpeople using dogs to move sheep must be trained to handle dogs, or be under the supervision of a trained dog handler.
- Dogs must be under good command and must not be allowed to force the sheep too fast nor to continue to force the sheep when they have nowhere to go.
- Dogs must not be allowed to nip or bite the sheep.
- Dogs must not be allowed to work the sheep without the handler present.

5.2 Identification

- Producers must ensure all materials used to mark sheep for identification purposes are designed for use in sheep or are non-toxic.
- Sheep identification must be performed or supervised by a competent stockperson in a way that causes the minimum of handling stress.
- Proper restraint that is appropriate for the size of the sheep must be used when tagging, notching or tattooing.
- For permanent identification methods, it is important to practice good hygiene because the skin on the ear will be broken. Ensure the applicators, ears and the stockperson's hands are clean and dry before the procedure.
- Producers must ensure applicators are sharp and that all related equipment is in good working order and maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

- When using tags:
 - use a tag suitable for the age, size and breed of sheep
 - use two tags maximum per ear to avoid interfering with the ear's natural position
 - ensure the tag is positioned correctly (according to manufacturer's instructions).
- Branding is only an allowable practice if specifically required by export regulations. Where export regulations require branding, choose freeze branding instead of hot iron branding, if allowable. Use pain control, in consultation with your flock veterinarian to mitigate pain associated with branding. Branding must be performed by a competent operator. Branding must not be done on wet sheep.
- Producers must ensure all identification requirements (i.e., Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP), export requirements) are met for all sheep leaving the farm.

5.3 Predation Control

- Producers must be aware of predation risks in their area and develop and implement a strategy for minimizing the risk of predation.
- Producers must provide prompt and appropriate care for sheep that have been attacked by predators. (See *Section 4.4 Sick, Injured or Cull Animals* and *Section 7 Euthanasia* for more information).

5.4 Shearing and Crutching

- All wool sheep must be shorn at least annually and as frequently as necessary, to mitigate animal health and welfare concerns.
- Shearing must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of a competent shearer using techniques designed to minimize animal stress and injury.
- Shearing of pregnant ewes in the last month of gestation must only be done by an experienced shearer.
- All shearing related injuries must be attended to promptly and according to the flock health and welfare plan.
- Farms must have a suitable area that can be set up for shearing that is adequate in size, clean and well-lit to ensure the well-being of both the sheep and the shearer.
- All shearing equipment and clothing that moves between farms with the shearer must be cleaned and disinfected between flocks at a minimum and disinfected between animals within a flock if there is known disease transfer risk.
- When planning shearing, producers must take the time of year, expected weather, local insect season and available shelter into consideration and take steps to prevent the potential negative outcomes associated with shearing (e.g. hypothermia, sunburn, biting insects, health problems).

5.5 Hoof Trimming

- Hooves must be inspected regularly and trimmed as required to maintain hoof health and sheep well-being.
- Hoof trimming must be performed by, or under the supervision of competent personnel, using accepted techniques.
- Personnel trimming hooves must have the ability to identify signs of footrot and other diseases.
- Trimming equipment must be clean and well-maintained. Equipment must be disinfected between flocks and between sheep within a flock where warranted because of the presence of disease.

5.6 Castration

- The decision to castrate must be based on a welfare risk/benefit analysis rather than as a routine; include the basis for this decision as part of the flock health and welfare plan.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

- Castration must be performed by or under the direct supervision of competent personnel using proper, clean, sanitized and well-maintained tools, and accepted techniques.
- Producers must consult with their flock veterinarian who can provide an appropriate pain control protocol for castration.
- Producers must monitor for signs of post-operative complications and take appropriate corrective action.
- Short scrotum castration must not be practiced.
- All castration must meet the method, age range and pain control use requirements stipulated below in Table 5.1.

Table 5.1: Castration method, age range and pain control use requirements

Method	Age range
Rubber ring (confinement and semi-confinement systems)	24 hours - 10 days
Rubber ring (pasture lambing system*)	24 hours - 6 weeks
Surgical	24 hours - 4 weeks
Burdizzo (clamp)	1 week [^] - 6 weeks
Surgical	Older than 4 weeks, anesthesia and analgesia required
Burdizzo (clamp)	Older than 6 weeks, anesthesia and analgesia required

* Pasture lambing system – refers to large scale systems where ewes are maintained and lamb on pasture or range

[^] Each cord should be crushed separately. Use caution to avoid crushing the boundary between the two sides of the scrotum. Do not crush the septum or tissue between the testicles.

- Castration of rams beyond 10 weeks of age must be done by a veterinarian using anesthesia and perioperative analgesia.

5.7 Tail Docking

- The decision to tail dock must be based on a welfare risk/benefit analysis rather than as a routine; the basis for this decision should be part of the flock health and welfare plan.
- Tail docking must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, competent personnel using proper, clean, sanitized, and well-maintained tools, and accepted techniques.
- Producers must monitor for signs of post-operative complications and take appropriate corrective action.
- Tail docking using a surgical technique (e.g using a blade alone) must be done by a licensed veterinarian with anesthesia and analgesia.
- Tail docking for lambs over six weeks of age must be done by a licensed veterinarian with anesthesia and analgesia.
- Rubber rings must not be applied beyond six weeks of age.
- Docked tails must cover the vulva in ewes and the equivalent length in rams. Tails must be docked no shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold. (See *Appendix F: Tail Docking*).

5.8 Mulesing

- Mulesing must not be performed.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

5.9 Dehorning/Horn Trimming

- Horned sheep, especially rams, must be inspected regularly to ensure that neither the tip, nor any other part of the horn is in contact with the face.
- Minor horn trimming (removal of tips) must be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a competent stockperson.
- Consult with a veterinarian regarding concerns about horns on sheep. If disbudding, dehorning or substantial horn trimming (removal of more than just the tip) is necessary; it must be performed by a licensed veterinarian using anesthesia and perioperative analgesia.

5.10 Breeding

- Producers must make responsible and informed decisions when selecting breeds and matching rams with ewes, to reduce the risk of lambing difficulties.
- Producers need to be aware of the risk of genetic disorders that might be associated with different breeds and genetic lines and take steps to avoid propagation of such abnormalities.
- Producers must plan breeding such that appropriate supervision and shelter at lambing will be available.
- Producers must carefully consider the knowledge, skills and resources (human and physical) required before using an accelerated lambing system (e.g. breed selection, maintenance of ewe body condition, care of low birth weight lambs and provision of extra supervision and care).
- If performed vasectomies, laparoscopic artificial insemination and embryo transfer, are considered surgical procedures and must be done by a veterinarian.
- Electroejaculation is a procedure that must only be performed by a veterinarian.
- Rams must be managed taking into account the risk of aggressive behaviour to avoid risk of injury due to fighting.
- During the breeding season, producers must increase the frequency of monitoring of rams for injuries, health and lameness.

5.11 Pregnancy, Lambing and Neonatal Care

- During gestation, monitor body condition scores and health on an ongoing basis and adjust the feeding program to maintain suitable body condition scores; seek the help of a nutritionist or veterinarian if required.
- Supervise lambing and take timely action as required, while keeping disruption and disturbances to a minimum.
- All stockpeople must be able to recognize the signs of lambing difficulty and know when and how to provide appropriate assistance and when to seek assistance from an experienced producer or veterinarian.
- All stockpeople who will be involved with caring for sheep affected by vaginal or uterine prolapse must be competent, or be under the direct supervision of an experienced stockperson who is competent with managing these conditions. (See requirements in *Section 4.4 Sick, Injured and Cull Animals*). Other obstetrical surgeries must be performed by a veterinarian.
- Embryotomy must only be performed on dead lambs.
- Good hygiene and sanitation must be practiced when lambing assistance is required.
- In confinement systems, a clean dry area for lambing must be provided.
- Newborn lambs must be monitored for evidence that they have suckled and for signs of starvation, hypothermia and frostbite. Prompt appropriate corrective action must be taken.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

- Promptly provide newborn lambs that do not nurse voluntarily within 6 hours of birth, with sufficient colostrum to help protect them from disease during their post-natal development. (See *Appendix G: Lambing and Neonatal Care*).
- All milk replacers used for lambs four weeks of age or younger must have been formulated for lambs.

5.12 Dairy Sheep – Milking Procedures

- Producers must ensure that milking machines are functioning correctly by carrying out proper maintenance and adjustment of vacuum levels, pulsation rates and ratios, in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.
- Pens, ramps, milking parlours and milking machines must be suitable for sheep and be inspected and maintained to prevent injury, disease and distress.
- To prevent mastitis, proper dairy hygiene must be practiced; before, during and after milking, and must include facilities sanitation.
- Milking must be frequent enough to ensure that the ewes are not left with unrelieved, distended udders. Milking should be carried out at least daily.
- All stockpeople milking ewes must be competent, or under the direct supervision of a competent milker.
- Handling of the ewes must be done in a calm quiet manner to minimize fear.
- Stockpeople must develop protocols to train ewes in their first lactation to the system and use patience in their handling.
- Ewes under treatment with drugs that require milk withdrawal must continue to be milked regularly.

5.13 Dairy Sheep – Early Weaning of Lambs

- Early weaned lambs (e.g. around 30 days) must be consuming adequate amounts of clean water and solid feed daily to ensure health, growth and vigour.

SECTION 6 Transportation

6.1.1 Fitness for transport

- The fitness for transport of every animal must be evaluated within the context of each trip. (Refer to *Appendix H: Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Sheep*).
- Unfit animals must not be transported, except for veterinary treatment or diagnosis on the advice of a veterinarian.
- Compromised animals must not be sent to auction markets or collection yards.
- Compromised animals, if transported for slaughter, must go directly to a local abattoir. (Refer to *Appendix H: Guidelines for Dealing with Compromised Sheep*).
- Sheep with injury or obvious clinical signs of disease must not be sent to auction or other sales.
- If it is probable that an animal will give birth during the journey, they must not be transported.
- Neonatal lambs unaccompanied by their dam must not be transported off farm until their navel is healed and they reach seven days of age.
- Producers must take expected weather conditions into consideration when making shipping arrangements.

6.1.2 Arranging Transport

- Producers must be familiar with federal and provincial transport regulations.
- Producers must ensure that a competent stockperson oversees loading and unloading.



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

6.1.3 Preparing Sheep for Transport

- Sheep must be fed within the five-hour period immediately prior to being loaded unless the expected duration of the animal's confinement on the vehicle is less than 24 hours from the time of loading (see *Health of Animals Regulations*).
- Sheep must have access to water until time of loading.
- Lactating dairy ewes must be milked out immediately before being transported.
- Heavily lactating ewes must be dried off before shipping to auction/collection yards unless they have suckling lambs accompanying them, or are intended for a production/replacement sale.
- Ensure all departing sheep and lambs are identified with an approved Canadian Sheep Identification Program (CSIP) form of identification.

6.2 Loading and Unloading

- The requirements for loading and unloading procedures and equipment as described in the *Health of Animals Regulations* must be complied with¹.
- Sheep must never be handled by grabbing their wool as this causes pain and bruising.
- Appropriate methods must be used for moving sheep; electric prods must not be used on sheep.
- Producers must confirm that trucks are in good repair, clean and adequately bedded.
- Producers must evaluate the need for feed and water after unloading animals on farm.

¹ According to the Regulations, ramps used for loading sheep must:

- be maintained and used to avoid causing injury or undue suffering
- not have a slope greater than 45 degrees
- have sides of sufficient strength and height to prevent animals from falling off
- be placed so that no unprotected gap exists between the ramp and the vehicle
- be fitted with safe secure footholds and suitable for the loading/unloading of sheep

The Health of Animals Regulations are available at: www.laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/PDF/C.R.C.,_c._296.pdf

SECTION 7 Euthanasia

7.1 Criteria for Euthanasia (Decision Making)

- Sheep must be euthanized without delay if experiencing pain or distress and does not have a reasonable expectation of improvement and or appropriate veterinary diagnosis and treatment is not feasible. (Refer to *Appendix K: Example of Decision Tree for Euthanasia*).
- All farms with employees must have a written euthanasia action plan for each phase of production that indicates the criteria for deciding when to euthanize an animal and the appropriate method(s). (Refer to *Appendix J: Signs of Pain in Sheep, Appendix Lb: Euthanasia Action Plan for Sheep and Goats*).
- Producers not familiar with euthanasia decision making and/or methods must consult with a veterinarian regarding euthanasia.
- All stockpeople must recognize when an animal needs to be euthanized, what method should be used, appropriate tool and who has been designated to perform euthanasia.

7.2 Methods of Euthanasia

- An acceptable method for euthanizing sheep must be used. (See Table 7.1 and *Appendix L: Euthanasia*).
- The method of euthanasia must be quick, cause minimal stress, pain and result in rapid loss of consciousness followed by death without the animal regaining consciousness.
- Every farm must have the ability to euthanize animals (i.e. readily available tools or ready access to someone who does).



Summary of Code Requirements (continued)

- All individuals performing euthanasia must have the required skills, knowledge, abilities, access to appropriate tools and be competent to perform the procedure.
- All stockpeople must be trained on the Euthanasia Action Plan and associated euthanasia methods. (See *Appendix L: Euthanasia*).
- All equipment used for euthanasia, such as firearms or captive bolt devices must be maintained according to manufacturer's instructions to ensure proper function.
- Unnecessary handling and movement of sheep prior to euthanasia must be avoided. Animals must not be dragged, prodded, forced to move on broken limbs, or made to move when pain and suffering will occur.

7.3 Confirmation of death

- If there are any indications of returning consciousness, the euthanasia procedure or an alternate one must be repeated immediately.
- Monitor the animal until death is confirmed by lack of respiration, lack of heartbeat and dilated pupils.
- Death must be confirmed before moving, leaving, or disposal of the animal.
- All carcasses should be disposed of according to all federal/provincial/territorial and municipal regulations.