



Ministry of Agriculture Discussion Paper prepared for the **Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food**

Provincial Meat Inspection

The overall objective of the provincial meat inspection program is to provide a credible regulatory system that is effective in ensuring food safety and animal welfare, while also providing sufficient flexibility to enable a competitive slaughter industry, as well as slaughter capacity for livestock producers across B.C.

For more information, visit us online:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/food-safety/meat-inspection-licensing>

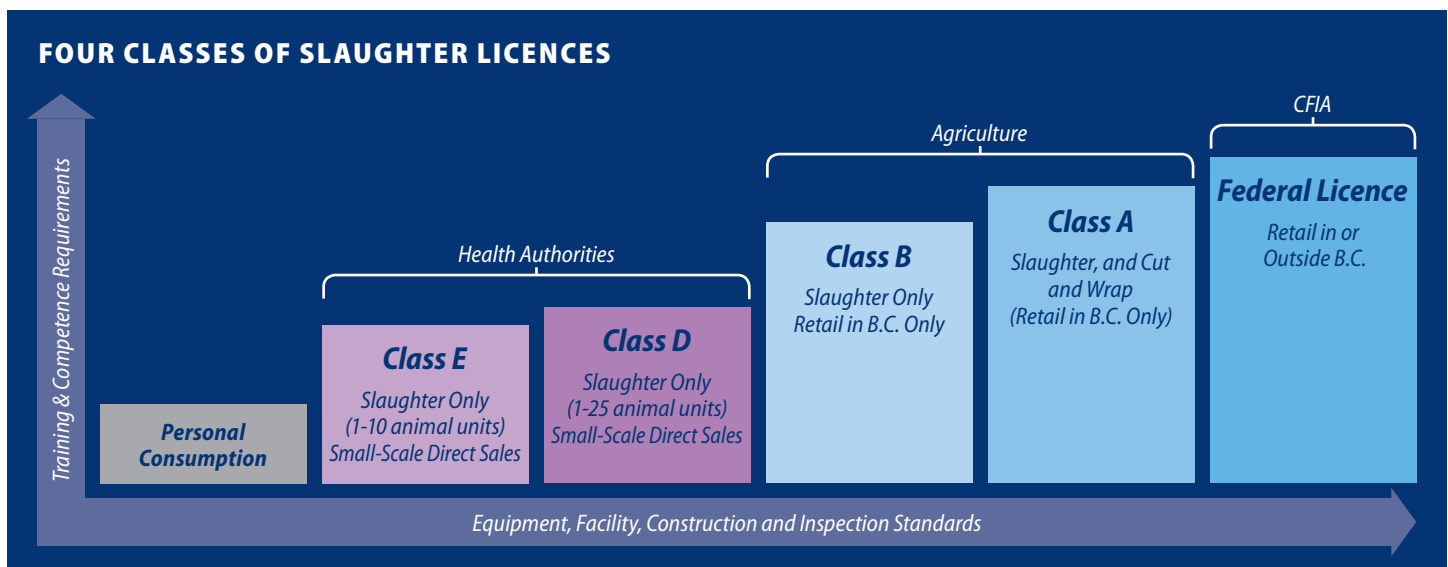
Expanded Engagement

The all-party Select Standing Committee on Agriculture, Fish and Food is well suited to lead a comprehensive engagement process with a fresh, impartial perspective on the current meat inspection system by considering questions such as:

- » Are there options for changing regulations and policy that could increase:
 - Livestock production in B.C.?
 - Processing in BC of animals raised in B.C.?

- Slaughter capacity, especially in rural and remote communities?
- Access to B.C. meat for consumers, retailers, restaurants, and institutional buyers?
- Access to specialized types of slaughter to meet cultural and market-based demands?
- Standards for food safety and the humane treatment of animals?
- » How can access to training and development be improved in order to support the meat production sector's need for skilled workers?
- » Are the regulations with respect to provincial meat production, including those under the authority of the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Health and the regional health authorities, clear and effective?
- » How can the provincial inspection system more effectively align with the federal meat inspection system in order to strengthen B.C.'s meat production, including the licensing of slaughter facilities (The federal government is responsible for licensing slaughter facilities that sell products outside of B.C.)?

After the engagement process, the committee will provide a report to the House that examines and makes recommendations concerning local meat production in B.C. The recommendations of this committee will provide important contributions to the Ministry of Agriculture's work.



* One animal unit = combined weight, when measured alive, of 1,000 lbs or 454 kg of meat.

Provincial Class A, B, D, & E Slaughter Licences

