

**GUIDELINE TITLE: ANIMAL MORTALITY AND OFFAL DISPOSAL AT A
LANDFILL**

BRANCH/DIVISION: Environmental Approvals / Environmental Stewardship

Effective Date: December 14, 2016

INTENT

To provide guidance to landfill operators and to the public regarding proper disposal of offal and mortalities at permitted or licenced landfills.

DEFINITIONS

Landfill – means a facility at which solid waste is disposed of by placing it on or in land, but does not include a remote seasonal waste facility.

Mortalities – means dead livestock, or parts of dead livestock, that are not marketable for human consumption.

Offal: the entrails and inedible parts of a butchered animal that are removed in dressing, consisting largely of the viscera and the trimmings, which may include, but are not limited to, thymus, pancreas, liver, heart, kidney, tongue, intended for use other than for human consumption.

Specified Risk Material - means

1. the skull, brain, trigeminal ganglia (nerves attached to the brain) eyes, tonsils, spinal cord and dorsal root ganglia (nerves attached to the spinal cord) of cattle aged 30 months or older; and
2. the distal ileum of cattle of all ages.

BACKGROUND

Landfills may dispose of offal and mortalities if not prohibited in the permit, Environment Act Licence (EAL) or other legislation.

A Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) permit will be required for the disposal of Specified Risk Materials (SRM).

Acceptance of offal and mortalities is based on several factors including, but not limited to, the type of facility, site sensitivity, environmental risk, condition of the facility, and landfill operational capabilities.

Schedule B, Section 7 of the Waste Management Facilities Regulation states the operator of a landfill must:

- a) bury animal remains with a minimum of one metre of cover material within 24 hours of deposit of the remains at the landfill, or as required by an environment officer; and
- b) dispose of fish offal and other readily decomposable material within 24 hours by burial or otherwise manage it in a manner that does not attract animals or insects.

GUIDELINE

Offal and mortalities that are disposed of by landfilling must be deposited at a permitted or licenced landfill. This should be accomplished by following one of three options in order of preference, being: burial in a compacted and covered area, burial within the active area (co-disposal), or burial on site in a dedicated trench.

The location selected should be away from major traffic areas within the landfill and away from public view. The selected trench/burial area should be accessible to the disposal delivery vehicle such that the material can be deposited directly into the area/trench. **There should be no physical handling of offal and mortalities by landfill operators or delivery personnel.** The deposition of offal and mortalities must be supervised at all times by landfill personnel and covered at appropriate times or at the end of the working day to prevent scavenging and to mitigate odour. Machinery must also be available for material handling and cover.

1) Burial in Compacted and Covered Area

A trench (preferably serviced by a leachate collection system) should be excavated in an area of the landfill that has been previously used for waste disposal, compacted and covered with intermediate cover. The trench should be constructed to a size suitable to handle and manage expected volumes, and only wide enough to allow for dumping of delivery vehicles without spill over (recommended width not greater than 4 metres). Surface water runoff from precipitation should be directed away from the burial trench. At minimum, the offal and mortalities deposited must be covered with one metre of earthen material by the end of the working day to prevent scavenging and odours.

2) Burial within the Active Area (Co-disposal)

Burial of offal and mortalities should be at the base of the active area. The offal and mortalities should be covered immediately with solid waste to a minimum depth of one metre. The offal and mortalities should not be exposed for public view and should not be accessible to scavengers or other vectors.

NOTE: Co-disposal is acceptable if the volume of offal is significantly less than the total incoming solid waste, i.e. a two (solid waste) to one (offal) ratio is recommended.

3) Burial On Site in a Dedicated Trench

The trench should be constructed to a size suitable to handle and manage expected volumes, and only wide enough to allow for dumping of delivery vehicles without spill over (recommended width not greater than 4 metres). Surface water runoff from precipitation should be directed away from the burial trench. At minimum, the offal and mortalities deposited must be covered with one metre of material by the end of the working day to diminish scavenging and odours.

Additional Information

Due to the high liquid content of the mortality or offal waste, a dedicated trench will likely require long term care and maintenance. A clay or synthetic lined trench is recommended to prevent the escape of leachate. If settlement or liquid/leachate escapes from the trench it must be managed.

All disposal locations should be kept on record at the landfill with GPS coordinates and be available to an Environment Officer upon request.

Prior approval by the landfill operator is required before transport to the landfill (24 hours notice is generally required). If hauling SRM material from a livestock operation, a transportation permit from CFIA must be acquired in advance by calling 1-866-788-8155.

In the event of a mass mortality, Manitoba Sustainable Development is to be notified prior to disposal.