

Livestock Identification and Commerce Act – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Livestock Inspection FAQs

Where will livestock inspections be required?

Generally, livestock arriving at auction markets, country sales, feedlots, assembling stations and abattoirs will be required to be inspected. However, there will be exceptions, which will be dealt with in the regulations. All cattle and horses leaving Alberta must be inspected.

Where can LIS perform inspections?

LIS will be authorized to perform inspections at any location where livestock may be present including farms, pastures, feedlots, while being transported, and at sale points. Inspectors have the authority to enter any location (except a house) at any time to do an inspection or to collect records.

Where is livestock inspection not required?

A change in ownership of livestock alone will not trigger the requirement for a livestock inspection. For example, the transfer of ownership in share pen cattle will not require a livestock inspection if the cattle are not being moved to another feedlot. Similarly, a subsequent transfer of ownership occurring while livestock are still at an auction market or when the livestock are in transit will not require livestock inspection. A key determining factor as to whether brand inspection is required is the movement of livestock to and from designated inspection points.

What happens during an inspection?

The livestock inspector will examine the brands and other identifiers on the livestock and compare the information in the brand registry with the information on the paperwork associated with the livestock. When performing an inspection, livestock inspectors will inspect the livestock in a manner and at a level satisfactory to the inspector. Where there is a discrepancy between the brands and the accompanying paperwork (e.g., the person presenting the livestock for sale is not listed as the registered owner of the registered brand, the brands listed do not match the brands on the animal, or the information on the manifest do not include the registered brand owner's name) the livestock inspector will either detain the livestock or require that a hold be placed on the sale proceeds. If the paperwork is in order, no hold will be placed.

What happens to the sale proceeds when they are held and how is a hold released?

LIS will hold the sale proceeds in a trust account. The sale proceeds will be paid out when LIS is satisfied that the seller was the owner of the registered brand or had authorized possession of the livestock. If there are competing claims for the sale proceeds that involve the courts, LIS will pay the money into the court or to the person as the court orders. LIS will also be able to release hold funds where all of the claimants agree on where the money should be paid. If money remains under a hold for more than two years, the money will be paid into the Livestock Assurance Fund.