

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Operator Responsibilities re AM Inspection</b>	<b>06-A-01</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b> <i>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</i> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Sections 40(1)(a), 40(2), 40(3)(a), 40(3)(b) & 64(1)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.

**Note:** This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.

Four other sections of AR 42/2003 refer to the responsibilities of the operator of a “Licensed Meat Facility” (abattoir) in relation to AM Inspections.

1. Section 40(2) requires the operator to make arrangements with the inspector for the ante-mortem inspection.
2. Section 40(3)(a) requires the to make reasonable arrangements to expedite AM inspections.
3. Section 40(3)(b) requires the operator to give the inspector full cooperation and active assistance in the performing of an ante-mortem inspection where due to exceptional circumstances, such assistance is needed and the inspector requests it.
4. Section 64(1) requires the operator to assemble poultry so they are available for the ante-mortem inspection

**Note:** The purpose of this document is to outline, in general terms, the responsibilities that the abattoir operator and abattoir personnel have with respect to AM inspections.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

Abattoir operators will recognize and assume their responsibilities, in regard to the AM inspection, by:

1. Conducting an initial screening of all animals upon their arrival at the abattoir.

**Note:** This activity does not replace the AM inspection by a Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspector in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR 42/2003 and in the case of poultry the operator still has to assemble the birds in the receiving area for the MIB Inspector [s. 64(1) of AR 42/2003].

**TIPM – 06-A-01 Page 2 of 2 - OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

2. Segregating animals that have any deviation from normal behavior, or appearance and placing them in designated (suspect) pens or areas upon their arrival.

Note: This requirement does not apply to rabbits or poultry.

3. Recording the lot identity, the number screened and the number of suspects.

Note: It is preferable to have the pre-screening findings recorded in the "Abnormalities Observed" column of the MIF - 13. The MIF - 13 is the AM Inspection Form that has been designed by the MIB.

4. Training of plant personnel in the ante-mortem screening methods.

Note: All animals must be handled during unloading and the AM screening in a manner that minimizes any discomfort and/or excitement.

A document entitled "Introduction to Ante-mortem for Plant Employees" is available from the MIB of Alberta Agriculture & Rural Development.

5. Provide assistance, to the MIB Inspector, as requested

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

- 06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections
- 06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals
- 06-A-04 AM Abnormalities in Red Meat Animals
- 06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Poultry
- 06-A-07 AM Pre-screening by Abattoir Personnel
- 06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection
- 06-A-09 AM Condemnations
- 06-A-11 Time Requirements for AM Inspection
- 06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection
- 06-A-13 Dispositions Following the AM Inspection

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Facility Requirements for AM Inspections</b>	<b>06-A-02</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 122/2009) Section 40(1)(a), 40(3)(a) & 64(1)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

A number of sections, in AR 42/2003 relate to the conduct of AM Inspections.

1. Section 40(1)(a) states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full AM inspection”.
2. Section 40(3)(a) of AR 42/2003 states that “The abattoir operator shall make reasonable arrangements to expedite AM inspections” and
3. Section 64(1) states that “the operator of an abattoir shall assemble poultry that is to be slaughtered in the receiving area and make it available for AM inspection”.

The purpose of this document is to outline, in general terms, the types of facilities that are needed to safely perform an AM inspection.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

The live animal holding area in the “Licensed Meat Facility” (abattoir) will have the following characteristics to facilitate the AM inspection of **red meat animals**:

1. Good lighting.
2. Ample space & equipment to safely move and observe animals.

**Note:** There must be sufficient room to move the animals around so they can be observed individually from each side.

Facilities should be designed with the safety of the inspector, abattoir personnel and animals as a primary concern

3. Flooring of pens and alleyways provide good footing.
4. Freedom from sharp projections such as broken boards, nails, etc. in pens and alleyways.
5. Sufficient pens to allow for segregation of different species, ages and classes of animals.

**Note:** It is impossible to properly observe smaller animals when they are mixed in with larger ones.

6. Pens to hold sick, injured or suspect animals.

**TIPM – 06-A-02 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

In poultry abattoirs the following will be available:

1. Good lighting.
2. Good ventilation.
3. Enough space for the MIB Inspector to move around transport vehicles in order to see all crates.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

06-A-01 Operator Responsibilities re AM Inspection

06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection

06-A-09 AM Condemnations

06-A-10 AM Care of Animals - General

06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Purpose &amp; Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals</b>	<b>06-A-03</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCE</b> <i>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</i> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Section 40(1)(a)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.

**Note:** This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.

The **purpose** of this document is to **explain** the **reasons why and how** AM inspections should be **conducted**.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

An AM inspection will be conducted on all red meat animals and ratites that are to be slaughtered in provincially licensed abattoirs.

**Note:** Because of their size, ratites (ostriches, emus and rheas) are handled the same as red meat animals.

The **purpose** of the AM Inspection will be to:

1. Identify animals that may require a more detailed post-mortem inspection.

**Note:** The AM inspection may reveal signs that point to a problem with a particular organ or system. Forewarned with this knowledge, the inspector will conduct a more thorough inspection of that organ or system during the post-mortem inspection.

2. Reduce the chance of contamination on the kill floor.

**Note:** Prohibiting the entry of animals, to the kill floor, that are obviously going to be condemned will totally eliminate any chance of cross contamination of other carcasses.

Another method of preventing cross contamination is to hold diseased animals, still considered to be fit for slaughter, until the end of the kill.

3. Prevent the entry of dead or dying animals onto the kill floor.
4. Observe disease conditions that are not readily apparent on the post-mortem examination.

**Note:** A number of disease conditions have no post-mortem changes. The most notable of these include diseases of the nervous system, metabolic diseases such as milk fever, and many poisonings. It would be impossible to detect any of these conditions without conducting an AM inspection.

**TIPM – 06-A-03 Page 2 of 3 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

5. Ensure humane treatment of animals during the pre-slaughter period.

**Note:** Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspectors are required to initiate corrective actions whenever they observe any instances of inhumane treatment of pre-slaughter animals.

6. Identify animals that are reactors or that may have been used in research projects, or trials.

Sufficient abattoir personnel will receive sufficient training to be able to assist MIB Inspectors in the conduct of AM inspections.

**Note:** A document entitled "Introduction to Ante-mortem for Plant Employees" is available from the MIB of Alberta Agriculture and Food.

All animals will be handled during unloading, AM screening and AM Inspection in a manner that minimizes any discomfort and/or excitement to the animal.

Designated abattoir personnel will:

1. Perform an initial AM screening of animals upon their arrival at the abattoir.

**Note:** The practice of allowing livestock owners to drop off animals in the absence of any plant personnel should be discouraged however; if animals are delivered over night designated abattoir personnel will perform a screening examination immediately upon arrival at the plant.

2. Place any animals showing any deviation from normal behavior, or appearance in designated (suspect) pens, or areas, in order to segregate them from other animals.
3. Record the identity of the lot, the number of animals screened and the number of suspects.

**Note:** It is preferable for this information to be recorded in the "Abnormalities Observed" column of the MIF - 13. The MIF - 13 is the AM Inspection form that has been designed by the MIB.

4. Provide assistance to the MIB Inspector as requested.

An MIB Inspector will:

1. Observe all animals at rest.
2. Move, or have abattoir personnel move, the animals out of the pen then back into the pen.

**Note:** This is done so that the inspector can observe both sides of the animal. If there is sufficient room in the pen to move the animals one way then the other this part of the ante-mortem inspection can be done without removing the animals from their pens.

3. Direct that animals with abnormalities be placed in a separate holding pen, or area.

**Note:** Generally animals with abnormalities will be segregated but at the discretion of the MIB Inspector those with very minor, or insignificant, abnormalities may not require segregation (e.g. minor cuts or abrasions").

**TIPM – 06-A-03 Page 3 of 3 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

1. As deemed necessary place an animal in a chute, or other suitable restraint device, in order to conduct a closer examination including taking the animals temperature.

**Note:** The MIB Inspector will consult with the Division Veterinarian, Area Manager, or Regional Supervisor, if necessary.

2. Identify animals that have been subjected to an AM inspection.

**Note:** Animals may be identified with a marking crayon or a card could be placed on the gate to signify that they have been inspected. When dealing with small numbers of animals and only one MIB Inspector is on duty it may not be necessary to identify animals as having been inspected.

3. Record all findings on a MIF - 13.

**Note:** Details about any animals that are found dead, on the AM inspection, must also be recorded on the MIF -13.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections

06-A-04 AM Abnormalities in Red Meat Animals

06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection

06-A-09 AM Condemnations

06-A-11 Time Requirements for AM Inspection

06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection

06-A-13 Dispositions Following the AM Inspection

12-B-05 Safe Handling of Livestock

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: AM Abnormalities in Red Meat Animals</b>	<b>06-A-04</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCE</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Section 40(1)(a)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## RATIONALE

“Ante-mortem” (AM) means “before death” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

Note: AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections are a requirement of section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003, which states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.

The purpose of this document is to explain **WHAT** the inspector looks for during the AM inspection of red meat animals.

## OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME

An AM inspection will be conducted on all animals presented for slaughter at provincially licensed abattoirs.

MIB Inspectors will look for the following during the AM inspection of mammals (red meat animals):

1. Respiratory (breathing) abnormalities;

Note: Common respiratory abnormalities include:

- a) increased breathing rates;

Normal Breathing Rates	
Cattle	12-28
Sheep	12-24
Goats	12-20
Pigs	13-24

Factors that affect the respiratory rate include:

- i) high environmental temperatures;
- ii) excitement;
- iii) fever;
- iv) pneumonia;
- v) emphysema;
- vi) heart conditions



- b) coughing;
- c) abdominal breathing;
- d) difficult breathing;

Difficulty during the inspiratory phase (breathing in) usually indicates a problem in the upper respiratory tract (nose, throat, or windpipe).

Difficulty during the expiratory phase (breathing out) usually suggests a problem in the lungs.

If the expiratory difficulty is severe enough the animal may grunt.

- e) discharges from the nose;
- f) runny eyes;
- g) abnormal breathing patterns

Normally there are three equal phases to breathing. These phases are inspiration, expiration and a pause. As the rate of breathing increases the length of the pause will decrease, sometimes to the point of disappearing altogether.

Also, in a normal animal, both the chest and abdomen will move. If the animal only moves its' abdomen it likely has a painful congestion in the chest and when it only moves its' ribs it likely has pain in the abdomen.

## 2. Behavioral Abnormalities

Note: Common behavioral abnormalities include:

- a) head pressing;  
Head pressing suggests pressure on the brain. It is a common feature of lead poisoning.
- b) walking in circles;  
Circling could indicate a specific type of brain infection called Listeriosis or it could indicate a problem with the middle ear.
- c) pushing against a solid object such as a fence or wall for extended periods of time;
- d) charging at objects or people;
- e) anxious facial expression;
- f) dull facial expression;

Changes in behavior often indicate disease of the central nervous system (CNS). Generalized infections (fever & septicemia) may also cause changes in behavior.

CNS diseases will cause excitation or depression. These are the only two ways the brain can respond. Excitement may range from minor irritation to frenzy while depressive states may range from mild dullness to unconsciousness.

Diseases of the CNS may also cause changes in gait (way of walking). They may also result in involuntary muscular activity such as twitching, convulsions or paralysis.

With many CNS diseases there are minimal or no post-mortem changes thus re-enforcing the need for a thorough ante-mortem inspection.

- g) excessive rubbing, scratching and licking;

Most of these types of behavioral changes have local causes (e.g. lice or mange) and usually has no effect on the suitability of the carcass.

- h) abnormal gait (way of walking);

Changes in gait usually indicate of pain. Common causes include arthritis, footrot or injury. These changes may also indicate a nervous system abnormality (e.g. dragging a limb could be a sign of nerve paralysis).

- i) Abnormal postures;

Examples of abnormal postures include:

- i) standing humped up with the abdomen tucked in
- ii) lying with the head turned back to one side
- iii) standing with the front feet stretched out
- iv) standing with the head extended (neck stretched out)
- v) downers

**“Downers”** are defined as **animals that can’t get up or can only stand with difficulty**, or for a very short time. They should be segregated so that they don’t suffer undue pain or distress. Downers may be stunned and bled in the pen if moving would cause undue hardship.

### 3. Abnormal Discharges or Protrusions from Body Openings

Note: **Body openings** include:

- a) ears
- b) eyes
- c) nose
- d) mouth
- e) anus
- f) urinary and/or reproductive tract

**Abnormal discharges** generally consist of fluids causing:

- a) runny eyes
- b) runny nose

- c) excessive salivation (slobbering)
- d) diarrhea
- e) fluid from the reproductive tract

**Protrusions** include:

- a) prolapsed rectum
- b) prolapsed vagina
- c) afterbirth
- d) tumors (e.g. cancer eye)

#### 4. Changes in the Mucous Membranes

Note: Mucous membranes are the tissues that line body openings.

Examples include tissue:

- a) under the eyelids
- b) on the surface of the gums
- c) inside lining of the cheeks
- d) inside lining of the female reproductive tract

Changes in the mucous membranes may provide clues about the general health of the animal for example: pale membranes could indicate anemia (lack of red blood cells), yellow membranes (jaundice) suggest liver disease.

#### 4. Conformational Abnormalities

Note: Animals should be bilaterally symmetrical. This means that the same structures on the left and right side of the body should be identical in size, shape, consistency, etc. To determine whether a conformational abnormality exists the part in question should be compared with its' counterpart on the other side of the body.

Examples of conformational abnormalities include swellings caused by:

- a) abscesses
- b) hematomas (blood clots)
- c) accumulations of serum (clear yellow fluid)
- d) swellings in the umbilical (navel, or belly button) area
- e) bloated abdomen
- f) edema (accumulations of watery fluid)
- g) deformities of the jaw
- h) cancer eye, etc.

**TIPM – 06-A-04 Page 5 of 5 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

5. Abnormalities of Color

Note: Abnormalities of color are not seen very often, but examples include:

- a) black areas in the skin of pigs which could indicate a malignant tumor (cancer) called a melanoma;
- b) red, or purple, discoloration of the skin in pigs which could indicate septicemia (blood poisoning);
- c) red diamond shaped areas on the skin of pigs which indicate a disease called erysipelas;
- d) dark blue cold areas, in any species, which is suggestive of gangrene.

6. Body Temperature

Note: It is recommended that MIB Inspectors take an animals temperature in the following situations:

- a) Multiple abscesses;
- b) Large single abscesses;
- c) Arthritis in more than one joint;
- d) All downers;
- e) Animals with labored breathing.

Normal Body Temperatures	
Cattle	38.5 <sup>0</sup> C (101.5 <sup>0</sup> F)
Sheep	39.0 <sup>0</sup> C (102.0 <sup>0</sup> F)
Pigs	39.0 <sup>0</sup> C (102.0 <sup>0</sup> F)
Goats	39.5 <sup>0</sup> C (103.0 <sup>0</sup> F)

Animals are considered to be unfit for slaughter if their temperature is sustained over 40.5<sup>0</sup>C (105.0<sup>0</sup>F). A temperature is considered to be sustained if it does not go down after an hour. These animals should be referred for veterinary examination and possible treatment or they should be condemned.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

- 06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections
- 06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals
- 06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection
- 06-A-09 AM Condemnations
- 06-A-11 Time Requirements for AM Inspection
- 06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection
- 06-A-13 Dispositions Following the AM Inspection

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Purpose &amp; Conduct of AM Inspection - Poultry</b>	<b>06-A-05</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b>  <i>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</i> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Sections 40(1)(a) & 64(1)	<b>Initial Release</b>  Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.

**Note:** This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”. Birds are animals thus all poultry and ratites (emus, rheas and ostriches) are covered by this section

Section 64(1) also refers directly to the AM inspection of poultry. This section states that “the operator of an abattoir shall assemble poultry that is to be slaughtered in the receiving area and make it available for AM inspection”.

The purpose of this document is to provide the reader with the reasons why and how AM inspections should be conducted in poultry.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

An AM inspection will be conducted on all poultry including ratites (emus, rheas and ostriches) that are to be slaughtered in provincially licensed abattoirs including those located at Hutterite Colonies.

**Note:** Because of their size, ratites (ostriches, emus and rheas) are handled the same as red meat animals.

The **purpose** of the AM Inspection will be to:

1. Identify flocks with conditions that may render the birds unfit for human consumption.
2. Determine the general condition of the birds and thereby determine whether any groups require special handling such as scheduling them for immediate slaughter.

**Note:** Birds exposed to temperature extremes, or inclement weather during transport, should be slaughtered immediately.

3. Identify birds that may require a more detailed post-mortem inspection.

**Note:** The AM inspection also provides the MIB Inspector with additional information upon which to determine the proper disposition of the carcass.

**TIPM – 06-A-05 Page 2 of 3 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

4. Reduce the chance of contamination on the kill floor.

**Note:** Preventing entry of sick, dead or dying birds, to the kill floor, that are obviously going to be condemned, will eliminate any chance of cross contamination of other carcasses.

Holding diseased birds, which are considered to be fit for slaughter, until the end of the kill is another method of preventing cross contamination.

A properly conducted AM inspection will identify flocks with conditions that are likely to result in heavy contamination during evisceration.

5. Observe disease conditions that are not readily apparent on the post-mortem examination.

**Note:** There are no post-mortem changes in a number of disease conditions particularly diseases of the central nervous system (brain and spinal cord).

6. Identify flocks which may have been treated with antibiotics, or other drugs.

**Note:** As part of the AM process the shipper is required to record a list of drugs that have been used and the withdrawal times that have been observed in a section of the MIF - 34 Flock Health Declaration and AM Inspection Report form.

7. Identify flocks suspected of having a reportable or exotic disease.

8. Ensure humane treatment of birds during the pre-slaughter period.

**Note:** Meat inspectors are expected to initiate corrective actions whenever they observe any instances of inhumane treatment of pre-slaughter birds.

Sufficient abattoir personnel will receive sufficient training to be able to assist MIB Inspectors in the conduct of AM inspections.

**Note:** A document entitled "Introduction to Ante-mortem for Plant Employees" is available from the MIB of Alberta Agriculture and Food.

Designated abattoir personnel will:

1. Provide the consignor with a copy of the MIF – 34 Flock Health Declaration and Ante-mortem Inspection Report and ensure that all pertinent information is recorded on the first page of this document

**Note:** The first page of the MIF – 34 has space for recording the following:

- a) number and type of birds submitted;
- b) time of feed and water withdrawal;
- c) owners name and address;
- d) disease history;
- e) medication history including drug withdrawal dates;
- f) producer declaration of accuracy;
- g) method of transportation;
- h) description of bio-security measures taken by the producer.

**TIPM – 06-A-05 Page 3 of 3 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

2. Segregate flocks with visible abnormalities from normal flocks.
3. Ensure that the birds are in a location suitable for the AM Inspection.

**Note:** No birds will be slaughtered until a MIB Inspector has completed the AM Inspection. Normally AM inspections will be conducted at the start of the shift but other inspections will be done during the day as required.

The MIB Inspector will:

1. Perform a visual examination of all lots of birds.
2. Record the number of birds found dead.
3. Record the types of abnormalities observed and the number of affected birds.
4. Make a determination on the disposition of the birds.

**Note:** Routine AM inspections of poultry are more superficial than those conducted on red meat animals. Observation of the flock is more important than observations that only relate to individual birds. Generally it is usually sufficient to observe the birds in their crates. It is particularly important to observe the characteristics of the droppings in the crates.

When confronted with significant abnormalities, in a number of birds, it is recommended that the MIB Inspector consult with the Regulatory Services Division Veterinarian (DV) or with a veterinary pathologist in the Food Safety Division

Groups of birds that exhibit significant evidence of disease, or deviation from normal must be segregated and set aside for a more detailed inspection and/or consultation with the DV, Area Manager or Regional Supervisor.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

- 06-A-01 Operator Responsibilities re AM Inspection
- 06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections
- 06-A-06 AM Abnormalities in Poultry
- 06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection
- 06-A-09 AM Condemnations
- 06-A-11 Time Requirements for AM Inspection
- 06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection
- 06-A-13 Dispositions Following the AM Inspection

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: AM Abnormalities in Poultry</b>	<b>06-A-06</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Sections 40(1)(a) & 64(1)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003 *Meat Inspection Regulation*, which states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.

**Note:** By definition birds are animals thus all poultry and ratites (emus, rheas and ostriches) are covered by section 40(1)(a) of AR 42/2003

Section 64(1) also refers directly to the AM inspection of poultry. This section states that “the operator of an abattoir shall assemble poultry that is to be slaughtered in the receiving area and make it available for ante-mortem inspection”.

The purpose of this document is to let the reader know **WHAT** the inspector looks for during the AM inspection of poultry.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME:**

An AM inspection will be conducted on all poultry including ratites (emus, rheas and ostriches) that are presented for slaughter at provincially licensed abattoirs including those located at Hutterite Colonies.

**Note:** Because of large numbers and means of transportation individual birds cannot be examined. The overall health of the flock is the most important observation that can be made.

Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspectors will look for the following during the AM inspection of poultry:

1. Overcrowding
2. Number of dead or dying birds
3. Size of birds (uniformity)
4. Alertness

**Note:** Dull and lethargic birds may be the only indication of certain conditions.

5. Respirator disorders



**TIPM – 06-A-06 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

6. Cannibalism
7. Leg Disorders
8. Frostbite
9. Heat exhaustion
10. Symptoms characteristic of specific conditions

Note: Examples of specific conditions include but are not restricted to

- a) sinusitis
- b) pendulous crops
- c) joint problems

11. Characteristics of droppings]

Upon completion of the AM inspection the MIB Inspector will record all findings on a MIF – 34 Flock Health Declaration and AM Report form.

Note: A copy of the MIF – 34 will be made available to the inspector performing the post-mortem inspection.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

- 06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections
- 06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspections - Poultry
- 06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection
- 06-A-09 AM Condemnations
- 06-A-11 Time Requirements for AM Inspection
- 06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection
- 06-A-13 Dispositions Following the AM Inspection

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: AM Pre-screening by Abattoir Personnel</b>	<b>06-A-07</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCE</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Sections 21(1) & 40(3)(b)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, the AM period, at a “Licensed Meat Facility” (abattoir), is the period of time between delivery and slaughter of the animal.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

The operator of an abattoir has a legal responsibility to:

1. Provide assistance in conducting an AM Inspection.
2. Ensure that animals are handled in a human manner.

**Note:** Sections 21(1) and 40(3)(b) and of AR 42/2003 are the basis of the operators legal responsibilities.

Section 40(3)(b) states “The abattoir operator shall give the inspector full cooperation and active assistance in the performing of an ante-mortem inspection where, due to exceptional circumstances, such assistance is needed and the inspector requests it.

Section 21(1) states, “A person shall minimize pain and distress of any animal that is being prepared for slaughter or slaughtered.

In order to ensure the humane care of animals, from their time of arrival at the abattoir, it is necessary for abattoir personnel to protect obviously distressed or diseased animals from injury and further distress from other animals in the facility.

**Note:** This can only be done by ensuring that abattoir personnel observe all animals upon their arrival and take appropriate steps to minimize the chance of injury, or further discomfort, to animals with abnormalities.

The purpose of this document is to clarify the responsibilities of abattoir operators and personnel for the pre-screening of red meat animals in the AM period.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

Abattoir operators will assign qualified personnel to pre-screen animals for evidence of disease and/or distress upon their arrival at the abattoir.

**Note:** Qualified personnel will be familiar with the content of a training guide entitled “Introduction to Ante-mortem Screening for Plant Employees”.

**TIPM – 06-A-07 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

This guide is available from the Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) of the Regulatory Services Division of Alberta Agriculture and Rural Development.

Designated employees will also be familiar with the content of the following TIPM documents:

- a) 06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals
- b) 06-A-04 AM Abnormalities in Red Meat Animals

Animals with obvious abnormalities will be segregated for other animals.

**Note:** A MIB Inspector must be notified about the detection of any abnormalities as soon as possible.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

06-A-01 Operator Responsibilities re AM Inspections

06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections

06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection

06-A-10 AM Care of Animals- General

06-A-11 Time Requirements for AM Inspection

06-A-12 Maintenance of Identity During the AM Inspection

06-A-13 Dispositions Following the AM Inspection

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Suspect Animals on AM Inspection</b>	<b>06-A-08</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Sections 40(1)(a) and 57(a) & (b)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009 <b>Page 1 of 2</b>
<b>RATIONALE</b> <p>“<b>Ante-mortem</b>” (AM) means “<b>before death</b>” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.</p> <p>Note: AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.</p> <p>AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.</p> <p>Note: This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.</p> <p>Section 57 of AR 42/2003 states, “Where, under this Regulation, a live red meat animal is to be held the inspector shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) identify the animal in the manner specified by the Director, and</li><li>b) order that the animal be removed to and kept in an area designated for the purposes of this section by the inspector apart from other animals</li></ul> <p>Situations arise where a Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspector cannot make an immediate decision on the suitability of an animal, or group of animals, for slaughter. These suspect animals must be handled appropriately until such time as they are approved for slaughter or condemned.</p> <p>The purpose of this document is to outline how these animals need to be handled.</p>	
<b>OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME</b> <p>Animals exhibiting evidence of disease, or deviation from normal will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. “HELD” as suspects.</li><li>2. Segregated and set aside for a more detailed examination.</li></ul> <p>Note: A detailed examination may require the animal to be suitably restrained. Animals may also have to be held until the MIB Inspector has had a chance to consult with the Division Veterinarian or his/her Area Manager, or Regional Supervisor.</p> <p>Until a final decision is made, on the final disposition, these animals will be identified by a MIF – 7 Alberta Held Tag - General. This tag will be placed on the pen, or crate.</p>	

**TIPM – 06-A-08 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

Depending on the findings of the detailed inspection and/or results of consultations the MIB Inspector may:

1. Allow the animal to proceed for normal slaughter.
2. Set the animal aside for rest and/or treatment, or to go through an appropriate withdrawal time if a veterinary medication residue is a cause of concern, prior to slaughter, and further ante-mortem inspection, as appropriate.
3. Set the suspect animal aside for separate slaughter, along with other suspects, preferably at the end of normal slaughter.
4. Allow the animal, even though it has been deemed to be a suspect, for humane reasons, to proceed for immediate slaughter.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections

06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals

06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Poultry

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: AM Condemnations</b>	<b>06-A-09</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCE</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Section 40(1)(a)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.

**Note:** This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.

Animals deemed to be unfit for human consumption, based on the AM inspection will be condemned.

These animals must be handled appropriately.

The purpose of this document is to outline what has to be done with these animals.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

The Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspector will fill out an MIF – 4 Certificate of Condemnation whenever an animal, or a group of animals, are condemned on the AM inspection.

**Note:** The completed MIF – 4 will contain the following information:

- a) identification of the animal(s);
- b) owner’s name and address;
- c) reason for the condemnation

A copy of the MIF - 4 will be given to the abattoir operator who in turn can use it as verification of condemnation for the owner of the animal.

Condemned animals will be stunned or killed in the yards or live animal receiving area.

An MIF – 8 Condemned tag or other device containing the words ALBERTA CONDEMNED will be affixed to the condemned animal(s).

**Note:** It is not practical for the MIB Inspector to place an MIF – 8 tag on small animals (e.g. poultry or BBQ hogs). In these cases the MIF - 8 will be placed on the container that the animals are put in.

**TIPM – 06-A-09 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

Condemned animals will be removed, from the holding pens, or receiving area, to the inedible section of the abattoir.

Note: Condemned animals are not allowed to pass through the slaughter floor, or other areas of the abattoir where edible meat products are handled, or processed.

Condemned cattle over 30 months of age will be handled as SRM.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections

06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals

06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Poultry

10-A-04 SRM Removal & Control Program

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: AM Care of Animals - General</b>	<b>06-A-10</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b> <u>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</u> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Section 21	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
	<b>Page 1 of 2</b>

## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, the AM period, at an abattoir, is the period of time between delivery and slaughter of the animal.

The operator of a “Licensed Meat Facility” (abattoir) has a legal responsibility to provide humane care for animals that have been delivered and are being held for slaughter.

**Note:** These responsibilities are found in **sections 21(1), (2) and (3) of AR42/2003**.

Section 21(1) states, “A person shall not inflict unnecessary pain or discomfort on any animal that is being prepared for slaughter or slaughtered”.

Section 21(2) states, “The operator of an abattoir shall ensure that animals being received by the abattoir are provided with immediate shelter”.

Section 21(3) states, “A person shall not keep an animal in a pen for more than 24 hours without providing it with adequate feed water and bedding”.

The purpose of this document is to clarify the responsibilities of abattoir operators regarding the humane care of animals in the AM period.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

The following principles will be followed to ensure the humane care of animals, in the abattoir, during the AM period:

1. Livestock handling facilities will be properly designed, maintained and operated.

**Note:** The physical characteristics and behavioral traits of each species of animal, to be handled in the abattoir, must be considered when handling facilities are built, maintained and/or operated.

2. The truck, or conveyance device, will be flush with the chute when animals are being unloaded.

**Note:** This is essential in order to avoid openings, or unevenness, that may result in injury as animals are unloaded.

3. All pens must be kept reasonably clean and bedded.

**Note:** Reasonable means to the satisfaction of a Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspector.

Pens should be disinfected with an approved disinfecting agent on a regular basis or when requested by a MIB Inspector.

4. Different species of animals will be penned separately from other species.
5. Larger animals (of the same species), or those likely to injure other animals (e.g. bulls, boars, cows with horns, etc.) will be penned separately.



**TIPM – 06-A-10 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

6. Clean water must be provided in all livestock holding pens.
7. Feed will be provided for animals that are held for more than 24 hours.
8. Animals will have shelter from inclement weather.
9. Animals will be moved and handled in a humane manner.

Note: The use of canvas slappers is preferred to canes, sticks or electric prods.

Electric prods, if used, must be used sparingly. When used, prods must only be applied to the legs or body of the animal. The use of **prods on sensitive parts of the body**, particularly the genitals or nose **will not be tolerated**.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

- 05-D-01 Animal Welfare Audits - Red Meat Animals
- 05-D-02 Animal Welfare Audits - Poultry
- 06-A-01 Operator Responsibilities re AM Inspection
- 06-A-02 Facility Requirements for AM Inspections
- 06-A-07 AM Pre-screening by Abattoir Personnel

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Time Requirements for AM Inspections</b>	<b>06-A-11</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCES</b> <i>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</i> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Sections 40(1)(a), 40(3)(a) & 40 (3)(b)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009  <b>Page 1 of 1</b>
<b>RATIONALE</b> <p>“<b>Ante-mortem</b>” (AM) means “<b>before death</b>” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.</p> <p>Note: AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.</p> <p>AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.</p> <p>Note: This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.</p> <p>AM inspections must be done reasonably close to the time of slaughter.</p> <p>Note: This must be done because it is possible for diseases, or injuries, to develop between the AM inspection and slaughter if the interval between is too long.</p> <p>This document establishes the maximum time that can elapse between the AM inspection and slaughter.</p>	
<b>OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME</b> <p>An <b>AM inspection will be conducted</b>, on all animals, <b>within 24 hours</b> of the time that they are to be slaughtered in provincially licensed abattoirs.</p> <p>Note: Under ideal conditions the AM inspection will be done shortly before slaughter.</p> <p>Usually the best time to conduct an AM inspection is when the inspector first arrives at the abattoir. An inspection should also be conducted, as required, if animals arrive during the day. The best time to do these additional inspections is when the animals are being unloaded.</p> <p>If, for any reason, the slaughter of inspected animals is delayed, beyond 24 hours, another AM inspection will be performed.</p>	
<b>RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM</b> 06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals 06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Poultry	

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Maintenance of Identity during the AM Inspection</b>	<b>06-A-12</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCE</b> <i>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation</i> (Consolidated to 112/2009) Section 40(1)(a)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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<b>RATIONALE</b> <p>“<b>Ante-mortem</b>” (AM) means “<b>before death</b>” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.</p> <p>AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.</p> <p>To ensure that all animals receive an AM inspection appropriate methods must be used, by the “Licensed Meat Facility” (abattoir) to keep track of which animals have been inspected and which ones haven’t.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> There is a greater chance of missing animals in abattoirs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) that handle large numbers of animals;</li><li>b) where more than one inspector is on duty</li></ul> <p>The purpose of this document is to outline acceptable methods of identifying animals that have been subjected to an AM inspection.</p>	
<b>OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME</b> <p>The identity of animals that have been subjected to an AM inspection will be maintained in one, or more of the following ways:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. By memory of the inspector; <b>Note:</b> This method is only acceptable when small numbers of animals are presented for slaughter and only one MIB Inspector is on duty.</li><li>2. Through the use of a crayon, or paint;</li><li>3. Placement of a card on the pen indicating the type and number of animals inspected.</li></ol>	
<b>RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM</b> 06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Red Meat Animals 06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspection - Poultry	

# TECHNICAL INTERPRETATION POLICY MANUAL (TIPM)

<b>SUBJECT: Dispositions Following the AM Inspection</b>	<b>06-A-13</b>
<b>REGULATORY REFERENCE</b> <i>AR 42/2003 Meat Inspection Regulation (Consolidated to 112/2009)</i> Section 40(1)(a)	<b>Initial Release</b> Sept 1, 2009
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## **RATIONALE**

“**Ante-mortem**” (AM) means “**before death**” therefore, in its’ simplest terms the AM inspection is the visual inspection of animals before slaughter.

**Note:** AM and post-mortem (after death) inspections form the basis of scientific meat inspection.

AM inspections must be performed in accordance with section 40(1)(a) of AR42/2003.

**Note:** This section states “no animals will be slaughtered until such time as a meat inspector has completed a full ante-mortem inspection”.

The purpose of this document is to explain **WHAT** disposition choices are available to Meat Inspection Branch (MIB) Inspectors following the AM inspection.

## **OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME**

Following the AM inspection the MIB Inspector will make one of the following disposition choices:

1. Normal and fit for slaughter.
2. Requires immediate slaughter for humane reasons.

**Note:** Animals in this category would include spread hogs, animals with recently broken legs, lacerations, etc. Basically these are non-infectious conditions, which have no effect on other animals.

3. Fit for slaughter but need to be held until the end of the kill.

**Note:** Animals in this category would include those that have infectious conditions such as arthritis, abscesses, etc. which could lead to contamination of other carcasses.

4. Held for further examination.

**Note:** In some instances MIB Inspectors need to consult with the Division Veterinarian, their Area Manager, or Regional Supervisor to determine the best course of action including laboratory testing.

Upon completion of the consultation the animal(s) will be placed in one of the other disposition categories.

**TIPM – 06-A-13 Page 2 of 2 – OBJECTIVE/OUTCOME (continued)**

5. Unfit for slaughter and condemned.

Note: Condemned animals should be identified with an “MIF – 8 Condemned Tag”, or other device, showing the words “ALBERTA CONDEMNED”. In addition, the owner’s name, or the manifest #, or other means of identifying the owner will be entered on the “MIF – 13 Ante-mortem Inspection Report along with the animal identification and reason for condemnation. An “MIF – 4 Certificate of Condemnation” will also be completed.

Condemned animals are to be stunned or killed in the yards, or live animal receiving area, and removed to the inedible section of the establishment. Stunned animals may be bled in the yards, or live animal receiving area, provided there are adequate facilities to allow sanitary procedures.

Any cattle over 30 months of age that are condemned on the AM inspection and subsequently euthanized must be handled as SRM.

**RELATED SECTIONS OF TIPM**

06-A-03 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspections - Red Meat Animals

06-A-05 Purpose & Conduct of AM Inspections - Poultry

06-A-08 Suspect Animals on AM Inspection

06-A-09 AM Condemnations

10-A-04 SRM Removal & Control Program