



Does the AEM Code apply to you?

The new regulation applies to all agricultural operations in BC, from small hobby farms to large commercial operations.

If you do any of the following activities on your farm, get familiar with the requirements of the code:

- › Agricultural composting
- › Growing plants
- › Keeping livestock or poultry
- › Spreading manure, fertilizer or other nutrient sources
- › Storing manure or other agricultural by-products
- › Using boilers and heaters
- › Using and storing wood residue



Looking for more information?

Checkout the Agricultural Environmental Management website for a link to the new regulation, guidance and interactive tools.

gov.bc.ca/Agricultural-Environmental-Management

Questions?

E-mail: AEMCoPenquiries@gov.bc.ca



The Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management

On February 28, 2019, a new regulation called the Code of Practice for Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM Code) came into effect.

The new regulation aims to ensure our drinking water, watercourses and air are protected.



Ministry of
Environment and
Climate Change Strategy

Ensuring protection of water quality with a risk-based approach

The new AEM Code has requirements that are tailored to the level of environmental risk.

All farms, regardless of type or size need to follow a basic level of protection.

For example, all farms must ensure:

- ▶ agricultural by-products such as manure are not directly discharged into watercourses and groundwater;
- ▶ agricultural activities meet minimum setbacks from watercourses and property lines;
- ▶ contaminated farm runoff is prevented from entering watercourses.

Additional requirements must be met in high-risk areas. Examples may include leakproof bases for manure storage or restrictions on applying nutrients. High-risk areas include areas with high rainfall due to a higher risk of runoff taking nutrients and pathogens into ground and surface water.

Find out if you are in an area of higher environmental risk, by visiting the interactive High-Risk Areas maps on the AEM Code website:

gov.bc.ca/Agricultural-Environmental-Management



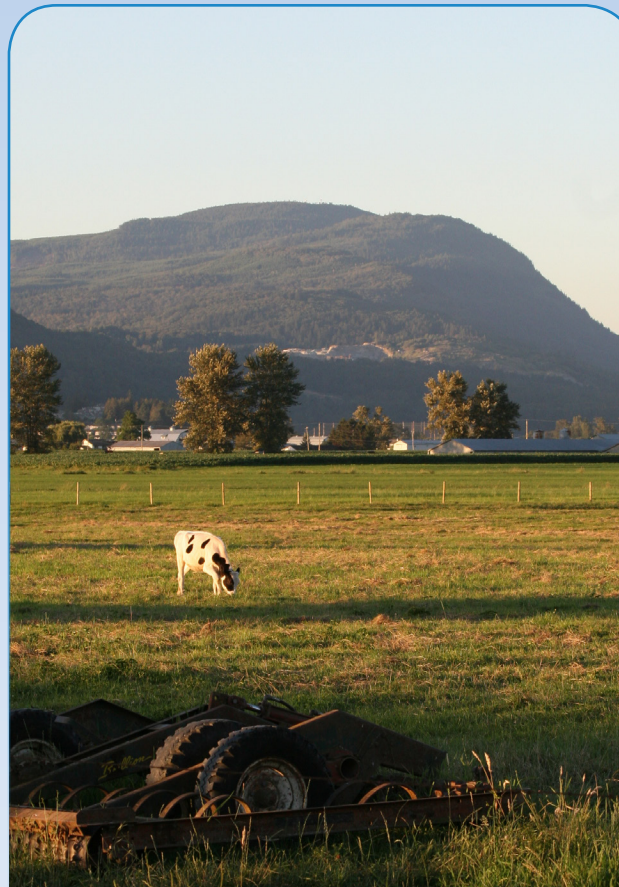
How will the Code be enforced?

The Code will be enforced by provincial Environmental Protection Officers. An officer may come on site to verify compliance with the Code as part of a scheduled inspection of agriculture sites or in response to complaint.

To prepare for a site visit, ensure your agriculture operation is meeting the requirements of the Code and keep any records for at least 5 years.

To find out how compliance is assessed or what to expect during an inspection:

gov.bc.ca/environmentalcompliance



What do you need to do?

- ▶ Familiarize yourself with the requirements of the new AEM Code at gov.bc.ca/Agricultural-Environmental-Management
- ▶ Implement the applicable Code requirements on your farm.
- ▶ **Keep records:** the information you need to record and keep is based on which activities you do on your farm. Check the website for more info.
- ▶ If you operate on 5 acres or more and spread fertilizer or manure, **take soil samples for each field** to inform your nutrient application rates.

