

Starting and Operating a Potable Water Hauling Business

Drinking water is considered a food under Alberta's Food Regulation (A.R. 31/2006). As such, in order to operate potable water haulers must:

- obtain a Food Handling Permit from Alberta Health Services – Environmental Public Health (EPH)
- meet tank and equipment requirements
- follow requirements to operate and maintain your permit

Food Handling Permit Requirements

- Complete the Food Handling Permit Application available at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/frm-03298.pdf>.
 - Complete an application for each base of operations associated with the potable water hauling business, whether a particular base of operation manages one vehicle or a fleet of vehicles
 - Inform EPH if any proposed potable water hauling tanks or other equipment has ever been used to haul products other than potable water. EPH will NOT issue a food handling permit for tanks and/or equipment that have transported non-food products at any time in the past.
 - Ensure all the potable water tanks meet the requirements listed below.
- Complete an approval inspection and receive written approval from your local public health inspector before hauling potable water.

Potable Water Tank Requirements:

- Label all tanks with “**FOR DRINKING WATER USE ONLY**”. Labels must be:
 - clear and permanent
 - in contrasting letters at least 15 cm (6 inches) tall

Wording other than “For Drinking Water Use Only” must be approved by EPH.

- Label all removable/transferable equipment, like hoses, must be clearly labeled “**FOR DRINKING WATER USE ONLY.**”

- Protect the water and its source, storage tank, and all other equipment from contamination during filling, storage, transportation and delivery.
 - Containers must have tight fitting covers/caps at filling/access outlets and any other locations where contamination may occur.
 - A backflow prevention device is required if water is pumped with direct connections to other storage units.
 - Hoses and nozzles must be capped/covered when not in use.
 - Access/fill hatch seals must be in good repair and provide a proper seal.
 - Water pumps that fill or empty the tank must use food-grade lubricants.

Operational Requirements:

1. Once you obtain your food handling permit and received written approval, you must
 - post a copy of the permit in the cab of every water hauling vehicle.
 - ensure AHS Mobile Food Vendor decals are posted on all potable water hauling vehicles, including trailers. EPH will provide the operator with the correct number of decals for all tanks associated with the base of operations.
 - provide EPH with a list of all potable water hauling vehicles operating from each base of operations
 - inform EPH if potable water hauling vehicles move between bases of operations throughout the year
2. Allow regular inspections by EPH. EPH wil contact you to arrange inspections.
3. Never transport non-food products, like petrochemicals or sewage. A water tank or any equipment contaminated with non-food products must be removed from potable water hauling service.
4. Obtain written approval from EPH if potable water tanks or other equipment will be used to haul non-potable water, for example, in an emergency.

Tanks used to haul non-potable water must be cleaned, disinfected and sampled as set out in the “Cleaning and Disinfecting Tanks” available at:
<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-potable-water-haulers-cleaning-disinfecting-tanks.pdf>.
5. Submit water samples monthly or as required by EPH. Water sampling information is available at www.ahs.ca/eph under Information for Your Business.
6. Use clean work gloves. Hand sanitizer should be available for hand hygiene.

7. Obtain all water supplied and/or transported in bulk from:
 - an approved municipal water source, or
 - a water source that is approved by EPH.
8. Clean and sanitize movable equipment, including hoses and nozzles, every day using a solution of 100 ppm household bleach, or equivalent as stated in the sanitizing procedure available at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-potable-water-haulers-cleaning-disinfecting-tanks.pdf>.
9. Develop and follow a written procedure for emergency disinfection following a contamination incident (example: hose falling on the ground).
10. Follow your written procedure for emergency disinfection following a contamination incident (example: hose falling on the ground).
11. Sanitize tanks at least twice a year, after any contamination and after a failed bacteriological water analysis. Instructions are available at <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-potable-water-haulers-cleaning-disinfecting-tanks.pdf>.
12. Protect the water and its source, storage tank, and all other equipment from contamination during filling, storage, transportation and delivery.
13. Conduct a visual inspection to ensure access/fill hatch seals are in good repair and are providing a proper seal.
14. Keep an activity log book in the water hauling vehicle. Log book records should include:
 - a) The date, time and location of each water fill
 - b) The date, time and location of each water delivery
 - c) The volume of water delivered to each site
 - d) The date and time of equipment disinfection
 - e) The date and time and results of the last bacteriological and chemical water samples.
 - f) Comments about problems with the water supply or vehicle and equipment.

Activity log books are to be retained for a period of one year. Make this log book available to a Public Health Inspector for examination, if requested. See <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/assets/wf/eph/wf-eh-potable-water-hauling-activity-log.pdf> for a template to print out.

For more information, please contact your nearest Environmental Public Health office.

Edmonton Main Office
Calgary Main Office
Lethbridge Main Office

780-735-1800
403-943-2288
403-388-6689

Grande Prairie Main Office
Red Deer Main Office
www.ahs.ca/eph

780-513-7517
403-356-6366

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