

Sample of High Priority Proposed Code Changes

2013 Code compared with the 2026 draft - items needing focused producer review

Priority area	2013 Code	2026 draft	Recommendation by Sask Sheep
Daily monitoring	Daily inspection specifically applied to sheep in confinement, with other monitoring duties elsewhere in the Code.	All sheep would be monitored at least daily, with more frequent checks during higher-risk periods.	This is a best management practice that should be recommended but not a requirement.
Castration, docking and pain control	Risk-benefit analysis and pain-control provisions already applied, depending on age and method.	Tighter age and method limits, stronger veterinarian-developed pain-control protocols, and more veterinary involvement for older lambs.	Confirm that products, veterinary access, timing and cost are workable for producers.
Written plans and documentation	Flock health planning, records, emergency actions and euthanasia procedures were already addressed.	More formal and prescriptive documentation, including a welfare policy and detailed written emergency plan.	Written documentation should be recommended as a Best Management Practice (BMP) and not listed as a requirement.
Personnel competency and training	Owners and attendants were required to have appropriate knowledge and competence.	More explicit duties to train, supervise and confirm competency for specialized procedures.	Ensure producer experience and on-farm training are accepted; avoid unintended external certification requirements.
Euthanasia planning and use of manual blunt force trauma (mBFT)	Timely euthanasia, acceptable methods and confirmation of death were required; procedures formed part of flock planning.	More detailed decision criteria and a formal written action plan for farms with employees. mBFT remains a permissible method for neonatal lambs under five days of age or 9kg.	Seeking clarification on who is defined as an employee on a family farm. Plans for euthanasia requirements should be practical. mBFT remains the most humane way to euthanize neonatal lambs.

Please review the Detailed Comparison put out by the Canadian Sheep Federation, the Complete Draft Sheep Code of Practice, and submit your feedback - Deadline for feedback is October 9, 2026.