

MEAT PROCESSING IN WYOMING, REGULATORY OVERVIEW



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Introduction

Meat processing is defined as engaging in at least one of the following activities: 1) The slaughter of domestic livestock, bison, rabbits or fowl; 2) The trimming, subdividing and packaging of the above-mentioned species or wild game; or, 3) The conversion and packaging of meat products into value-added items such as jerky, smoked meats or sausage (i.e. meat product manufacturing).

This document is intended to help those wishing to engage in the industry understand their licensing and registration obligations.

Local Requirements

It is important the processor comply with local zoning and construction building code and permit requirements. If municipal utilities (sewer and landfill) are to be employed, the processor is obligated to contact these entities and follow their regulatory guidance. The processor should also apply for all appropriate local business licenses.

State Requirements

Food Safety

<http://agriculture.wy.gov/divisions/chs/meat-a-poultry-program>
307-777-7211

The Wyoming Department of Agriculture, Consumer Health Services Division (CHS) administers the state meat program for intrastate product marketing. State-inspected facilities must adhere to CHS operational and labeling protocols, as well as U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights policies.

Environmental Concerns

<http://deq.wyoming.gov/>
307-777-7347

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regulates the storage and discharge of pollutants. In the meat processing industry, this could involve the disposal of liquid effluent and suspended solids, solid wastes (inedible carcass wastes) and air emissions in the form of noxious odors. Organic load volumes may necessitate the construction of pre-treatment facilities, the design of which must be approved by DEQ staff. Similarly, any use of septic systems will require design approval by DEQ.

Groundwater Access

<http://seo.wyo.gov/ground-water>
307-777-6163

If the processor chooses to use a groundwater well rather than a municipal water supply, the well must be registered with the State Engineer's Office and tested as required by the Department of Agriculture.

Sales Tax

<http://revenue.wyo.gov/>
307-777-5200

Certain processing activities require the collection of sales tax and the acquisition of a sales tax license. Most vendors that engage in exempt sales (food exemption) must still obtain a sales tax license.

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State Requirements continued.

Legal Formations

<http://soswy.state.wy.us/Forms/default.aspx>
307-777-7311

If a processor wishes to form a corporation, limited liability company (LLC), limited partnership, or protect a trade name or trademark (at the state level), registration is facilitated through the Secretary of State's Office. None of these registrations are required to conduct meat processing in Wyoming as a sole proprietor or general partnership.

Employer Obligations

<http://www.wyomingworkforce.org/>
307-777-8717

Employers have a variety of both state and federal registration requirements, none of which are unique to the meat processing industry.

- A) Workers Compensation/Unemployment Insurance <https://doe.state.wy.us/wyereg/> 307-235-3217
- B) New Hire Reporting Center <https://newhire-reporting.com/WY-Newhire/default.aspx> 800-970-9258
- C) Employer Posting Requirements http://www.wyomingworkforce.org/_docs/labor/labor-law-wyoming.pdf 307-777-7261
- D) Employee Eligibility <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/files/form/i-9.pdf> 800-255-8155

Federal Requirements

US Department of Agriculture

<http://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis>
877-374-7435

The facility must be a USDA-certified and -inspected plant for the processor to market beef, pork or poultry interstate. The processor must adhere to USDA-established guidelines for compliance and product labeling.

Internal Revenue Service

www.irs.gov
800-829-3676

The IRS requires the acquisition of a federal tax ID number (EIN) for the following types of businesses: corporations, businesses with multiple owners and any business that has employees. Sole owners with no employees may elect to obtain an EIN.

Conclusion

Those who engage in the meat processing industry are subjected to a complicated array of governmental oversight. The Wyoming Business Council is eager to assist companies in the navigation of the rules that regulate the industry. If you have questions or desire assistance, call 307-777-2843.