

**GUIDELINES FOR THE
HOUSING OF SEASONAL, MIGRANT
OR
TRANSIENT FARM WORKERS**

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These guidelines have been prepared for those individuals who wish to hire seasonal, migrant or transient farm workers. The guidelines are intended to assist employers in assessing their premises to be used for the housing of seasonal, migrant or transient farm workers.

This document was originally prepared by Agriculture Canada and the Nova Scotia Agriculture Employment Committee. It has been modified most recently by the Department of Health, Environmental Health.

Human Resource Development Canada and the Prince Edward Island Department of Health, Environmental Health, sanction these guidelines and encourage compliance by those individuals hiring seasonal, migrant or transient farm workers.

Revision Date: April 2007

ACCOMMODATION

STRUCTURE

General

- (a) Location - buildings to be used as housing for migrant workers shall be located on well drained ground at least 100 feet (30.48m) from any building used or intended to be used for sheltering animals or for poultry husbandry likely to cause offensive environmental conditions or other environmental conditions that may be hazardous to health.
- (b) Construction - buildings to be used as housing for migrant farm workers shall be weather proof and so constructed that:
 - (i) floors are tightly fitting, smooth surfaces, impervious to moisture and readily cleaned.
 - (ii) walls extended at least 7 feet (2.13m) above floor level, are tight fitting, and the interior is lined with a smooth painted or treated surface material.
 - (iii) roofs are tight fitting and water proof.
 - (iv) adequate lighting and ventilation are provided at all times by either natural or artificial means, or a combination of these.
 - (v) screens on all openings to the outside are provided between the first day of May to the first day of November.
 - (vi) total usable floor area of 80 square feet (7.44m²) per person is provided.
 - (vii) a minimum temperature of 68°F (20°C) can be maintained.
 - (viii) an artificial lighting source is available.
 - (ix) safety hazards are eliminated and housing is detached from any building where highly flammable materials are used or stored.
 - (x) where combustion type stoves or heaters are used, they shall be connected to exhaust flues of an approved design.
 - (xi) no toilet room or combined toilet room and wash room opens directly into any room used for the preparation, storage, or serving of food.

SLEEPING FACILITIES

Bunkhouses

When a building to be used as housing for migrant or seasonal farm workers is in the form of a bunkhouse:

1. Each bunk shall be:
 - (a) separate and sleep only one person
 - (b) at least 12" (30.48cm) above the floor
 - (c) provided with a clean mattress, pillow and made of sound construction
 - (d) at least 18" (35.75cm) apart from the next bunk when not lying lengthwise along the walls
 - (e) provided with one locker or one shelf for each bunk, or the equivalent.
2. A washroom shall be provided for the bunkhouse and equipped with:
 - (a) a constant supply of hot and cold water
 - (b) at least one sink or wash basin for every six bunks
 - (c) at least one shower or other satisfactory means of bathing for every six bunks
 - (d) at least one laundering tub for every fifteen bunks or the equivalent
 - (e) drying facilities for laundry.
3. If blankets, sheets and pillow cases are provided by the employer, they shall be replenished with clean sheets and pillow cases at least once per week.

FAMILY HOUSING

When a building intended for use as housing for migrant farm workers is in the form of family housing, there shall be:

1. A maximum occupancy rate of one person per 80 square feet (7.44m²) of total usable floor area.
2. At least 300 cubic feet (9m³) of air space per person in sleeping rooms. Children under six years to be considered for these purposes as one-half.
3. A kitchen with food storing, preparing and cooking facilities shall be provided and this space shall not be used as a sleeping room.
4. Basic furnishing such as tables, chairs and beds, compatible with the maximum occupancy.
5. Adequate laundry and drying facilities.

WATER SUPPLY

1. Housing for migrant farm workers shall be provided with a readily available supply of potable water, which meets the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality and shall be sufficient to provide for drinking, washing, food preparing and laundering of the occupants.
2. When drinking water is provided in a container, it shall be from a potable supply, the container shall be clean, sanitary, covered and equipped with a sanitary dispensing device.
3. No person shall use a drinking vessel in common with others.

TOILET FACILITIES AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

1. Fly tight, weather proof, well ventilated toilet accommodation shall be provided for every six occupants, or part thereof.
2. Where flush toilets are used, they shall be kept in good repair and operate efficiently.
3. Where other toilet facilities are used, such as portable toilets, they shall be kept clean and sanitary and shall be properly maintained.
4. Toilet tissues shall be provided to all toilet accommodations.
5. All sewage shall be disposed of in a manner consistent with the provisions of applicable regulations.
6. Toilet facilities shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary manner at all times.

FOOD

1. Food shall be stored so that it is protected from contamination.
2. All perishable food shall be stored in a place maintaining a temperature not exceeding 40°F (4°C).
3. The kitchen and dining area shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
4. When workers are preparing food for their own use within migrant farm workers housing, the following will be provided:
 - (a) food storage and refrigeration facilities
 - (b) food preparation facilities
 - (c) utensils for cooking, serving, and consuming food

GARBAGE CONTROL

1. Rodent proof garbage containers which can readily be cleaned and sanitized shall be provided for all buildings used for housing migrant farm workers and in sufficient quantity to store all garbage accumulated between collections.
2. Garbage shall be collected and removed in accordance with the requirements of Island Waste Management Corporation.

MAINTENANCE

All buildings used for housing migrant farm workers shall be kept in good repair, in a clean and sanitary condition, and free from vermin and rodent infestation.

SAFETY

1. Each building used to house migrant farm workers shall have fire extinguishers and smoke detectors installed and in good working condition.
2. Buildings used for housing migrant farm workers and their surroundings, shall be free from any chemical substance or condition which may become hazardous to the occupants.

How do these guidelines work?

Once contacted by Human Resource Development Canada or a farmer enrolled in the migrant worker program, Environmental Health will conduct an inspection of the proposed housing for the migrant farm workers. If the inspection proves to be satisfactory, HRDC will then process the application for employees.

Complaints will be investigated by Department of Health, Environmental Health, PO Box 2000, Charlottetown, PE CIA 7N8. ph: 902-368-4970, fax: 902-368-6468

An Environmental Health Officer will make recommendations to the farmer so that the housing for migrant farm workers will be in compliance with these guidelines.