

**Farm buildings are exempt from construction standards and do not require building permits. To qualify for the exemption, the building must meet the definition of “farm building” as defined in the Construction Codes Act. Owners are to provide information for the exemption to their municipality for review.**

## **How to Apply for a Farm Building Exemption**

Complete and submit the following documents to your municipality:

- **Residential Permit Information Form (PIF)**
- **Site Plan** (include the number of acres and what is being farmed)
- **Floor Plan** with rooms labelled (engineered stamps are not required)
- **Farm Building Exemption Request Form**
- **Proof of Farming Income/Operation.**

Your municipality will forward these documents to your building official for review.

The forms mentioned above can be found on our [website](#). PBI's **Farm Building Exemption Request Form** includes definitions that help distinguish exempt farm buildings from non-exempt buildings on agricultural property.

## **Once your Exemption is Granted**

If your exemption is granted, and if you have received your development permit, you may proceed with construction. The exemption is based on the drawings and specifications submitted. Construction must conform to the information submitted for review. Any proposed revisions to the building after the exemption is granted must be submitted to PBI for review and approval prior to implementing the proposed changes.

## **If an Exemption is Not Granted**

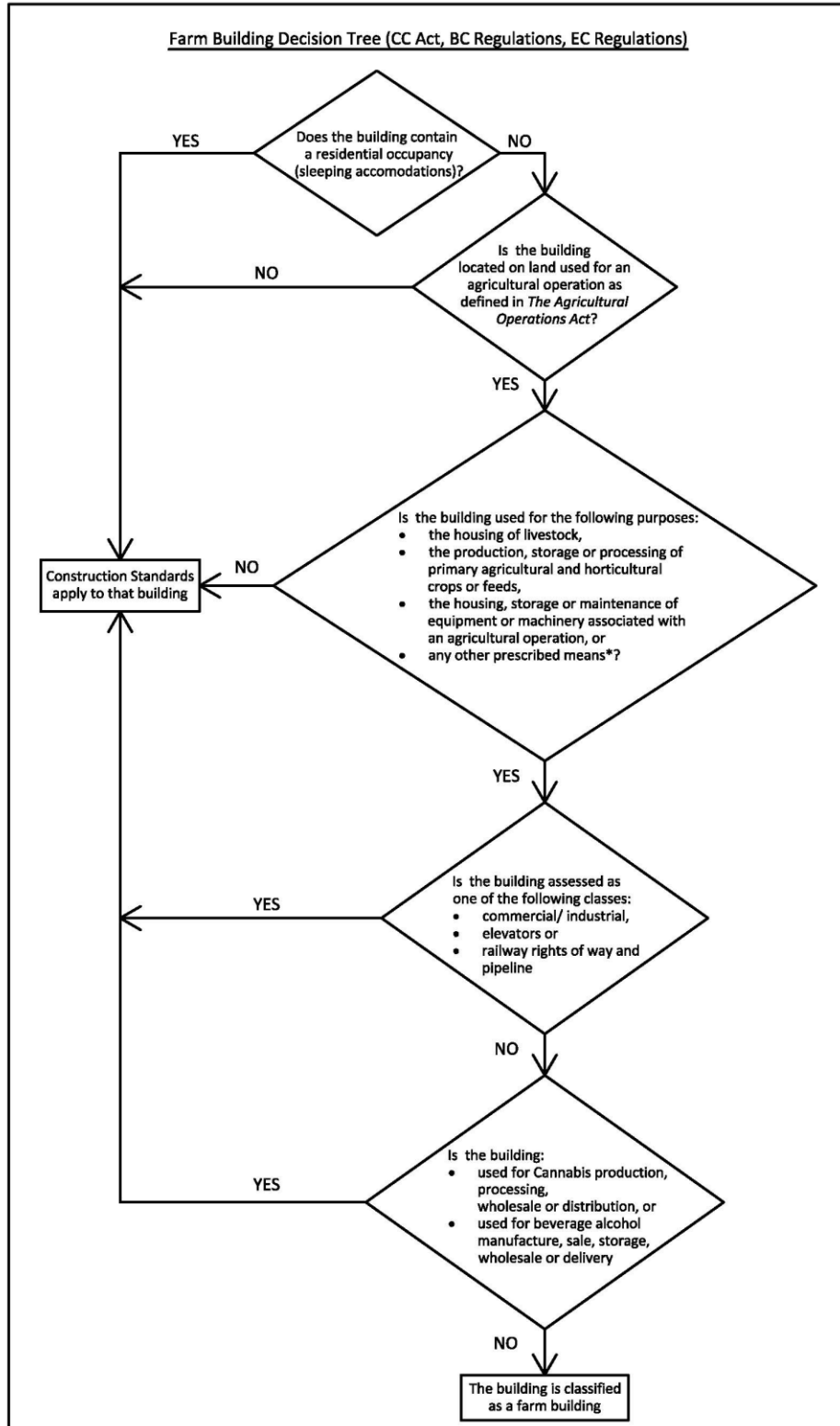
If an exemption is not granted, the building will need to comply with the national building code. The building official reviewing your application will complete a “Preliminary Application Review” (PAR). The PAR will include a list of any outstanding items required for submission and review before construction can be commenced.

If you no longer wish to proceed with the building project, complete a [cancellation form](#).

## **SAMA**

If SAMA's assessment of the building results in any category besides “agricultural,” a permit will then be required for that building to ensure building code compliance. Apply for a building permit through your municipality.

## Decision Tree



\* Prescribed means any other definition as provided in either the Building Code or Energy Code Regulations

Source: Building and Technical Standards Branch – May 2025 Construction Codes Advisory