



*Building a Safer Idaho*

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor  
C. Kelly Pearce  
Administrator

1090 East Watertower Street  
Suite 150  
Meridian, Idaho 83642  
Main # 1-800-955-3044  
Fax # 1-877-810-2840  
dbs.idaho.gov

**Article 547 Agricultural buildings**

Article 547.1 Scope states: *The provisions of this article shall apply to the following agricultural buildings or that part of a building or adjacent areas of similar or like nature as specified in 547.1(A) or (B).*

Article 547.1 (A) specifies that article 547 applies in those areas where, **Excessive Dust and Dust with Water exist.**

**Excessive Dust and Dust with Water.** *Agricultural buildings where excessive dust and dust with water may accumulate, including all areas of poultry, livestock, and fish confinement systems, where litter dust or feed dust, including mineral feed particles, may accumulate.*

Article 547.1 (B) goes on to specify.

**Corrosive Atmosphere.** *Agricultural buildings where a corrosive atmosphere exists. Such buildings include areas where the following conditions exist:*

- (1) *Poultry and animal excrement may cause corrosive vapors.*
- (2) *Corrosive particles may combine with water.*
- (3) *The area is damp and wet by reason of periodic washing for cleaning and sanitizing with water and cleansing agents.*
- (4) *Similar conditions exist.*

If a structure is defined as an Agricultural building, article 547 only needs to apply to those parts of the building that meet the requirements of 547.1(A) or (B) above.

In most cases the severe environmental conditions described do not exist in structures intended to house only a few agricultural animals (see photo below).



These conditions *are* likely to exist in commercial agricultural areas where several animals are being housed or moved through a production process. These agricultural processes usually involve staff members continuously feeding livestock or cleaning and sanitizing specific areas. It is this type of activity that's most likely to create the atmosphere the code is attempting to address with article 547 Agricultural buildings (see example below).



The Division of Building Safety proposes that “hobby barns,” “sheds,” and similar structures to be wired on a “case by case” basis. The inspector and the contractor, along with the property owner, should discuss each area of the structure independently; so the inspector can “sign off” on a proposed wiring method appropriate for the area and its intended use.

Please don't hesitate to call or Email me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank You,

Warren Wing  
Electrical Program Manager, Idaho Division of Building Safety.  
[Warren.wing@dbs.idaho.gov](mailto:Warren.wing@dbs.idaho.gov)  
208-332-7147