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## Frequently asked questions

### Assessment Model Review – Policy Changes

Municipal Affairs is updating the rules that govern regulated property assessments in Alberta as part of the Assessment Model Review. These amendments reflect the input of municipalities, industry, and professional assessors, and aim to simplify rules, reduce ambiguity in interpretation and improve consistency, transparency, and fairness.

Why do assessment models need to be updated now?

Many regulated property types have changed substantially since the last major updates in 2005.

Construction methods, materials, and costs have evolved significantly, and models must reflect current industry practices.

New technologies in several sectors are not recognized or costed in existing models.

Modernizing the models improves fairness, consistency, and transparency in how industrial property is valued.

Updated models ensure clearer rules and valuations that better reflect how today's industrial assets are built and operated.

Which properties are expected to be impacted by the policy changes?

The policy changes are expected to impact regulated property, which includes telecommunications and cable, railways, electric power systems wells, pipelines, and machinery and equipment.

Can you outline the policy changes being implemented and what they are meant to address?

These changes are intended to modernize and reduce ambiguity by clarifying definitions, improving transparency, and aligning assessment rules with current practices.

Clarified rules will allow new assessment models to be developed for each regulated property type. Key policy changes that are being implemented include:

- standardizing assessment rates, where feasible, to make assessments more predictable.
- updating assessment models on a regular schedule to reflect changes in technology and construction practices.
- setting more consistent rules by clarifying when construction is considered finished for purposes of assessment, making sure actual construction costs are included, and creating a

provincial benchmark to fairly adjust labour related construction costs in remote areas; and

- introducing penalties for owners who do not provide required assessment information on time.

Who was consulted and how were they engaged before these policy changes were implemented?

Since 2022, Municipal Affairs has worked collaboratively with a Steering Committee of industry representatives, professional assessors, and municipal partners including Rural Municipalities of Alberta (RMA) and Alberta Municipalities, to modernize Alberta's regulated property assessment framework through the Assessment Model Review.

The recent policy updates reflect their contributions and aim to simplify rules, reduce uncertainty, and improve consistency, transparency, and fairness across the system.

How will these changes affect the tax burden for industry and municipalities?

The first stage of the Assessment Model Review was focused on modernizing the system's principles and foundational policies while providing directions to stakeholders on how the assessment system will function ahead of the next stage.

The updated rules will be effective for the 2027 tax year and will apply to facilities built or expanded after that date, as well as to the assessment models for individual regulated property types as they are developed.

Municipal Affairs does not expect significant assessment changes in the 2027 and 2028 tax years resulting from these policy changes.

How will the transition to new rules work?

The updated rules will be effective for the 2027 tax year and will apply to facilities built or expanded after that date, as well as to the assessment models for individual regulated property types as they are developed.

This avoids retroactive changes and provides a predictable transition for property owners.

What are the next steps following these policy changes?

Over the next few years, Municipal Affairs will continue to work with stakeholders to update the assessment models – the rules and procedures for determining the valuation – for individual regulated property types.

These reviews will be followed by broad and direct engagement with municipalities and industry to consider the impacts of the new assessment models on revenue.

The final decision by government on implementation of any changes to assessment models is expected to occur in late 2028.

Why does Alberta use a regulated assessment standard based on construction costs instead of market value standard like residential assessments?

Alberta uses a regulated assessment standard to ensure uniformity and equity across municipalities, especially for complex industrial properties where comparable market data is limited or unreliable.

The cost-based approach avoids market fluctuations and provides a stable valuation for municipalities and property owners and reduces the risk of sudden shifts in property values.