

Notice

Detailed Summary of Substantial Changes 2014 version – 2016 version

An October 2015 edition of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operations Standards has been released replacing the August 2014 edition. The August 2014 edition was used for pre-auditing of seed treatment operations. The 2016 edition will be in-force for the 2016-2017 auditing cycle.

All sites are requested to successfully complete a full audit by December 31, 2016 or prior to receiving shipment of designated seed treatment product(s). Sites not audited by that time will lose all grandfathering privileges. Effective January 1, 2017 only Accredited Seed Treatment Operators will be eligible to receive designated seed treatment product shipments from CropLife Canada members.

Scope of Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards – the standards apply to the storage of designated seed treatment products and the seed treatment application process as part of the operation. The standards do not apply to the storage of treated seed post application.

Please note, once accredited, sites will be required to comply with all protocols for all seed treatment activities including storage and treatment requirements for both designated and non-designated seed treatment products.

The majority of the changes from the 2014 to 2016 edition are primarily clarifications. Significant changes are noted below.

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
A1	<p>All storage and fixed seed treatment areas are located at distances in excess of 30m from environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>Storage and fixed seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be grandfathered with respect to the 30m buffer upon written authorization and/or notice from local authorities having jurisdiction (a Fire Chief, or local planning authorities, or the Ministry of Environment).</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>All storage and fixed seed treatment areas are located at distances in excess of 30m from environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>Storage and fixed seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 were grandfathered with respect to the 30m buffer. Confirmation of grandfathering approval is held on file by AWSA.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>The protocol was modified to reflect that the eligibility for grandfathering has past. Notations regarding grandfathered status have been left in the protocol and notes. All facilities that have achieved grandfather status are kept on file internally.</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
A2	<p>All facilities are located at distances beyond established municipal flood plains (100 yr.).</p> <p>Existing sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, can be grandfathered with respect to the flood plain (100 yr.) requirement upon written authorization and/or from local authorities having jurisdiction (a Fire Chief, or local planning authorities, or the Ministry of Environment).</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>All facilities are located at distances beyond established municipal flood plains (100 yr.).</p> <p><u>Audit Notes:</u> For existing facilities, renovated facilities or new facilities located within established municipal flood plains (100 yr.) applications may be made to AWSA for approval, if significant flood diversion measures have been implemented to lessen the potential hazards associated with flooding activity. In addition, operations will be responsible for seeking all local/provincial approvals.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>The protocol was modified to reflect that the eligibility for grandfathering has past. Notations regarding grandfathered status have been left in the protocol and notes</p> <p>Clarification has added to the auditor notes – For facilities, which are not grandfathered and are seeking certification after March 31, 2015 applications must be made to AWSA for approval to siting within established flood plain areas.</p> <p>In some flood plain areas, significant flood diversion measures have been implemented to mitigate the potential hazards associated with flooding activity. Recognizing these flood prevention measure, new facilities seeking certification, which are being located in flood plains, may seek approval from AWSA. Sites will still be responsible for seeking all local/provincial approvals.</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
A3	<p>The storage and/or seed treatment areas have free access of 10 metres to at least two sides for firefighting access.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>The storage and/or seed treatment areas either a sole occupancy or enclosed within a building have free access of 10 metres to at least two sides for firefighting access.</p> <p><u>Audit Notes:</u> A site <i>examination</i> shall <i>verify</i> clear access of a minimum of 10 metres to two sides of the exterior of the building (which may include occupancy in a larger building). If the clear access is less than 10 metres, written approval from the local fire department must be made available to the Auditor. Active rail sidings within 10 metres of the operation cannot be considered as free access.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>For clarification, <i>areas enclosed within a building</i>, was added. Under the auditor notes, <i>which may include occupancy in a larger building</i> was added.</p>
A8	<p>Sign(s) are clearly posted inside the storage and/or seed treatment building(s) indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Emergency exits and exit routes within the building; b) Emergency supply cabinet (that includes) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) First aid; ii) Personal Protective Equipment (emergency use); c) Spill cleanup equipment; d) Fire extinguisher(s); e) Portable or fixed eyewash station(s); f) External fire lane(s) around the building <p>For outside treatment areas and mobile units: b, c, d and e are applicable.</p> <p>10 Points each (60)</p>	<p>Sign(s) are clearly posted inside the storage and/or seed treatment building(s) indicating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Emergency exits and exit routes within the building; b) Emergency supply cabinet; c) Spill cleanup equipment; d) Fire extinguisher(s); e) Portable or fixed eyewash station(s); f) External fire lane(s) around the building <p>For outside treatment areas and mobile units: b, c, d and e are applicable.</p> <p>10 Points each (60)</p>	<p>Under b), given this protocol deals with signage, the contents of the emergency supply cabinet was removed from this section</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
B1 & B2	<p>a) The storage area(s) exterior walls are constructed to provide a minimum one-hour fire resistance rating or are of non-combustible material.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>b) The storage area(s), if enclosed within a building, must be separated from other occupancies by a permanent two-hour fire separation. Interior fire compartment separation wall openings are provided with self-closing doors and if applicable, fire dampers having resistance rating of 1.5 hours, including the frames.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>a) The exterior walls of the seed treatment area(s) are constructed to provide a minimum one-hour fire resistance rating or be constructed of non-combustible material. Seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be grandfathered and exempted from this provision.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>b) The seed treatment area(s), if enclosed within a building, must be separated from other occupancies by a permanent two-hour fire separation. Interior fire compartment separation wall openings are provided with self-closing doors and if applicable, fire dampers having resistance rating of 1.5 hours, including the</p>	<p>No changes made to protocol.</p> <p>Note changes to Bulletin #2 Re: wall opening clarifications.</p>	<p>Clarification provided in Bulletin #2</p> <p>Clarified wall opening scenarios: If as part of the seed treatment operation there are augers (including belts) that protrude through established firewalls they will be viewed as exempt from requiring a damper or an alternative modification to achieve a fire rating.</p> <p>A grandfathering condition was added: seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be also grandfathered to allow for seed cleaning activities in the same area as the seed treatment area.</p> <p>Sites not grandfathered require separation, as outlined in Protocol B2, between the seed cleaning area and the seed treatment area.</p>

	<p><i>Continued...</i></p> <p>frames. The seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be grandfathered and exempted from this provision, with the exception of offices, lunchrooms and maintenance shops.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>		
B3	<p>For storage and/or seed treatment areas, windows that have be installed in interior fire separation walls are required to have a fire resistance rating, are wired glass and are not less than 6 mm thick and mounted in fixed steel frames.</p> <p>20 Points</p>	<p>For storage and/or seed treatment areas, windows that have be installed in interior fire separation walls are required to have a fire resistance rating of <u>two hours</u>, mounted in fixed steel frames.</p> <p>20 Points</p>	<p>In protocol added: <i>two hours, mounted in fixed steel frames.</i></p> <p>The prior requirement of wired glass, 6mm thick in steel frames was removed, but will be added as a grandfather provision for sites that completed a pre-audit prior to March 31, 2015.</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
B7	<p>The accredited area:</p> <p>a) The storage area has curbing 10 cm minimum in height around the perimeter or may be protected by a containment system incorporating floors sloped to a collection area that is 10 cm lower than the perimeter surface, and/or to drains leading only to a designed containment area specifically used for chemical spills or fire water retention;</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>b) The seed treatment area has curbing 10 cm minimum in height around the perimeter or may be protected by a containment system incorporating floors sloped to a collection area that is 10 cm lower than the perimeter surface, and/or to drains leading only to a designed containment area specifically used for chemical spills or fire water retention.</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p><u>Observations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Containment must be able to contain in excess the volume of seed treatment product(s) stored or in use. ▪ For sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, that are protected by a containment system incorporating floor drains sloped to a containment area which is 10cm lower than the perimeter surface, and/or drains leading to a designed containment area for chemical spills or fire water retention, are grandfathered for this provision. 	<p>The accredited area:</p> <p>a) The storage area has curbing 10 cm minimum in height around the perimeter or may be protected by a containment system incorporating floors sloped to a collection area that is 10 cm lower than the perimeter surface, and/or to drains leading only to a designed containment area specifically used for chemical spills;</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>b) The seed treatment area has curbing 10 cm minimum in height around the perimeter or may be protected by a containment system incorporating floors sloped to a collection area that is 10 cm lower than the perimeter surface, and/or to drains leading only to a designed containment area specifically used for chemical spills.</p> <p><u>Audit Notes:</u> The Auditor will <i>determine</i> if the accredited area is protected by retention curbing or a designed containment system. Curbing of at least 10 cm in height may be of concrete or steel, it must extend to the entire perimeter of the accredited area.</p> <p>If the curbing is made of angle iron or concrete that is not a single pour, caulking which is impervious to agrichemical spill absorption must be applied to ensure that spills cannot seep out through a crack. Multi-floor structures need curbing on all levels. Angle iron must have a minimum width of .25 inches.</p>	<p>The reference to containment being used as a means for fire water retention was removed. The intent of containment is to capture product spillage during operation and/or storage. The requirement for the containment system (all systems) to capture 110% of the products stored was reinforced.</p> <p>Indication of a minimum width of angle iron used as curbing to ensure long term robustness from operational activities.</p>

<p><i>Continued...</i></p> <p>Audit Notes: The Auditor will <i>determine</i> if the accredited area is protected by retention curbing or a designed containment system. Curbing of at least 10 cm in height may be of concrete or steel, it must extend to the entire perimeter of the accredited area.</p> <p>If the curbing is made of angle iron or concrete that is not a single pour, caulking which is impervious to agrichemical spill absorption must be applied to ensure that spills cannot seep out through a crack. Multi-floor structures need curbing on all levels. Angle iron must have a minimum width of .25 inches.</p> <p>Metal sheeting that is deemed impervious to chemical spills is acceptable. Baffled spill pallets that are deemed impervious to chemical spills are acceptable. Baffled pallets must be have sufficient containment capacity to hold 110% of volumes of seed treatment product(s) stored.</p> <p>All containment systems must have 110% of the capacity of the maximum amount of chemical present at any time.</p>	<p><i>Continued...</i></p> <p>Metal sheeting that is deemed impervious to chemical spills is acceptable.</p> <p>Baffled spill pallets that are deemed impervious to chemical spills are acceptable. Baffled pallets must be have sufficient containment capacity to hold 110% of volumes of seed treatment product(s) stored.</p> <p>All containment systems must have 110% of the capacity of the maximum amount of chemical present at any time.</p>	
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	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
B8 and B9	<p>B8 The floors in the accredited area:</p> <p>a) The floors of the storage area have been designed or treated and maintained to render them impervious to absorption by a chemical spill (concentrated product, does not include treated seed) and;</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p>b) The floors of the storage area have had all cracks filled and have a smooth finish. The material used to fill the cracks must be impervious to chemical spill absorption.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>B9 The floors in the accredited area:</p> <p>a) For all seed treatment areas, the floors or platform have been designed or treated and maintained to render them impervious to absorption by a chemical spill (concentrated product, does not include treated seed) and;</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p>b) Floors of the seed treatment area have had all cracks filled and have a smooth finish. The material used to fill the cracks must be impervious to chemical spill absorption.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>B8 Containment in the accredited area (storage):</p> <p>a) The floors/containment materials of the storage catchment area have been designed or treated and maintained to render them impervious to absorption by a chemical spill (concentrated product, does not include treated seed) and;</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p>b) The floors/containment of the storage catchment area have had all cracks filled and have a smooth finish. The material used to fill the cracks must be impervious to chemical spill absorption.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>B9 Containment in the accredited area (treatment area):</p> <p>a) Containment for all seed treatment areas has been designed or treated and maintained to render them impervious to absorption by a chemical spill (concentrated product, does not include treated seed) and;</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p>b) Floors/containment of the seed treatment catchment area have had all cracks filled and have a smooth finish. The material used to fill the cracks must be impervious to chemical spill absorption.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>The language in the protocol was modified slightly to clarify the intent. The surfaces of the containment catchment area must be designed or treated to maintain them impervious to chemical spill absorption.</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
B10	<p>a) Floors and floor support structures for the storage area must be constructed of non-combustible materials.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>b) Floors and floor support structures for seed treatment areas must be constructed of non-combustible materials. Sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, which are constructed of combustible materials, must have a minimum one-hour fire resistance rating, and, if elevated, have the underside secured at ground level around the perimeter with solid barrier sheathing. If not elevated (i.e., the floor supports are resting on the ground), the floor does not require a fire resistance rating, nor is sheathing required around the perimeter.</p> <p>30 Points</p>	<p>a) Floors and floor support structures for the storage area must be constructed of non-combustible materials.</p> <p>Mandatory</p> <p>b) Floors and floor support structures for seed treatment areas must be constructed of non-combustible materials.</p> <p>30 Points</p> <p><u>Audit Note:</u> The only acceptable materials for the floor are concrete or steel.</p>	<p>This protocol was modified to move the grandfathering clause into the auditor note section. The intent of the protocol did not change.</p>
B14	<p>Within the storage area, the ventilation system is designed to control explosive vapours.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>Within the storage area, the ventilation system is designed to control explosive vapours.</p> <p>10 Points</p>	<p>Changed from mandatory to 10 points. Currently seed treatment products do not emit explosive vapours.</p> <p>Designing a ventilation system to control explosive vapors is a recommended best management practice.</p>
B18	<p>Seed treatment equipment is in good operating condition and is maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>Moved to Section C (Protocol C12)</p>	<p>This protocol was moved to section C as C12 for greater audit clarity.</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
B19 – B21	These protocols were re-numbers to reflect B18 being moved to C12.		
C1	Smoking, drinking, eating and the storage of food or livestock feed in the storage and seed treatment areas is strictly forbidden, and permanent signs to this effect are posted. Mandatory	Smoking, drinking, and eating in the storage and seed treatment areas is strictly forbidden, and permanent signs to this effect are posted. Mandatory	Removed <i>storage of food or livestock feed for consistency</i> with AWSA standards.
C12		Seed treatment equipment is in good operating condition and is maintained in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Mandatory	Former B18
D7	All forklift drivers who work within the accredited area have undergone lift truck training provided by a qualified trainer. Mandatory <u>Audit Notes:</u> The Auditor will <i>determine</i> who the forklift truck drivers are within the accredited area during the development of the organizational chart. The owner or manager of an operation may appoint a qualified employee as a trainer provided this is documented and signed by the owner or manager. Examine forklift training certificates (skid steers and tractors are not applicable).	All forklift drivers who work within the accredited area have undergone lift truck training provided by a qualified trainer. Mandatory <u>Audit Notes:</u> The Auditor will <i>determine</i> who the forklift truck drivers are within the accredited area during the development of the organizational chart. Examine forklift training certificates. Trainers must meet the qualifications as outlined in CSA B335-15.	The audit notes were modified to remove skid steers and tractors as not applicable. The auditor notes were modified to clarify the qualifications for forklift trainers. The operation of skid steers and tractor should be covered under D2 – Safe Operating Procedures. No certification is required, but employees will need to be instructed on the safe operation of all applicable equipment used in the seed treatment storage or treatment activities. Qualifications for trainers must be in accordance with CSA B335-15.

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
E1	<p>Storage and seed treatment structures constructed within 30m of environmentally sensitive areas must have written authorization and/or notice from local authorities having jurisdiction (Fire Chief, local planning officials or Ministry of Environment).</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>Grandfathered storage and seed treatment areas within 30m of environmentally sensitive areas must have written authorization and/or notice from local authorities having jurisdiction (i.e. local planning authorities or Ministry of Environment).</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>Removed fire chief from list of local authorities</p>
E6	<p>This accredited area has a written inspection program for its heating and ventilation systems and forklift trucks. This program is documented and the Auditor was shown completed past checklists, which support the program:</p> <p>a) Heating system; b) Forklift trucks; c) Ventilation systems.</p> <p>10 Points each (30)</p>	<p>This accredited area has a written inspection program for its heating and ventilation systems, forklift trucks and dock levelers. This program is documented and the Auditor was shown completed past checklists, which support the program:</p> <p>a) Heating system; b) Forklift trucks; c) Ventilation systems; d) Dock levelers</p> <p>10 Points each (40)</p>	<p>Added: d) Dock levelers</p> <p>Additional 10 points.</p>
E7	<p>This operation has written procedures for operating and maintenance:</p> <p>a) Bagging and bulk handling equipment; b) Care and use of seed treatment equipment; c) Labeling of treated seed in accordance with product label.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>This operation has written procedures for maintenance:</p> <p>a) Bagging and bulk handling equipment; b) Care and use of seed treatment equipment; c) Containment inspection and maintenance</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>c) Labeling of treated seed in accordance with product label requirements, was moved to E16 and a new c) Containment inspection and maintenance was added.</p> <p>This protocol was changed to focus on maintenance procedures. Operating procedures are covered in E16.</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
E16	<p>Where applicable, the operation has established written processes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seed treatment product transfer (from container to seed treatment equipment/applicator); b) Treating; c) Cleaning; d) Calibration; e) Waste disposal (containers, rinsate, spill disposal, off-spec treated seed etc.); f) Production/product tracking (i.e., product lot numbers, production log, etc.); g) Safe work procedures (hot work, confined space, elevated work, lockout etc.). <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>Where applicable, the operation has established written procedures for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seed treatment product transfer (from container to seed treatment equipment/applicator); b) Treating; c) Cleaning; d) Calibration; e) Production/product tracking (i.e., product lot numbers, production log, etc.); f) Safe work procedures (hot work, confined space, elevated work, lock out etc.) g) Labeling of treated seed in accordance with product label requirements <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>e) <i>Waste disposal (containers, rinsate, spill disposal, off spec treated seed etc...</i> was removed.</p> <p>This was a duplicate of E9.</p> <p>An additional requirement was added to this protocol, g) Labelling of treated seed (from E7)</p>
F3	<p>The appropriate employees that have direct job-related duties in the seed treatment storage and treatment areas can explain the established procedures for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Storage of seed treatment products; b) Safe and effective application of seed treatment products (including label awareness); c) Care and operation of seed treatment equipment; d) Labeling of treated seed. <p>10 Points each (40)</p>	<p>The appropriate employees that have direct job-related duties in the seed treatment storage and treatment areas can explain the established procedures for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Storage of seed treatment products; b) Safe and effective application of seed treatment products (including label awareness); c) Care, operation and cleaning of seed treatment equipment; d) Labeling of treated seed. <p>10 Points each (40)</p>	<p>Under C, added the word "cleaning"</p> <p>Care, operation <i>and cleaning</i> of seed treatment equipment</p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
G1	<p>The operation's written Emergency Response (ER) Plan was reviewed with the Auditor and it includes:</p> <p>a) A dated index that references page numbers and contains a list of all plan holders;</p> <p>An organizational chart that details the following:</p> <p>a) The responsibilities of each position on the chart;</p> <p>b) The telephone numbers of all emergency responders, employees, local medical facilities, governmental agencies, product suppliers, environmental services companies and adjacent land owners/tenants;</p> <p>c) A drawing of the site plan indicating emergency response equipment and supplies, containment area, control centres, emergency routes and relative locations of seed treatment products;</p> <p>d) A written management plan for volumes of estimated fire water, spilled liquids and rinsing liquids (E3 & E4);</p> <p>e) A list of the distribution of the ER plan;</p> <p>f) A list of events that initiate the ER plan;</p> <p>g) The location of seed treatment product inventory list.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>The operation's written Emergency Response (ER) Plan was reviewed with the Auditor and it includes:</p> <p>a) A dated index that references page numbers</p> <p>b) An organizational chart that details the following:</p> <p>i. The responsibilities of each position on the chart;</p> <p>ii. The telephone numbers of all emergency responders, employees, local medical facilities, governmental agencies, product suppliers, environmental services companies and adjacent land owners/tenants;</p> <p>iii. A drawing of the site plan indicating emergency response equipment and supplies, containment area, control centres, emergency routes and relative locations of seed treatment products;</p> <p>iv. A written management plan for volumes of estimated fire water and spilled liquids (E3 & E4);</p> <p>v. A list of the distribution of the ER plan;</p> <p>vi. A list of events that initiate the ER plan;</p> <p>vii. The location of seed treatment product inventory list.</p> <p>Mandatory</p>	<p>From point (a) removed <i>and contains a list of all plan holders</i></p>

	Protocol (2014 Version)	Protocol (2016 Version)	Clarification/Change
G4	<p>The operation has established a list of relevant phone numbers and contact persons that is accessible at or near telephones, which may include product suppliers, local emergency services and agencies, management, employees, owner, the poison control centre and adjacent land owners/tenants.</p> <p>Within the last 12 months, emergency response phone lists are verified and lists updated as required.</p> <p>20 Points</p>	<p>The operation has established a list of relevant phone numbers and contact persons that is accessible at or near telephones, which may include product suppliers, local emergency services and agencies, management, employees, owner and the poison control centre.</p> <p>Within the last 12 months, emergency response phone lists are verified and lists updated as required.</p> <p>20 Points</p>	<p>Removed and adjacent land owners (From first paragraph)</p>