

## NOTICE

# AWSA Auditing Activities and COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Version: March 17, 2020

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In an interconnected global economy, the new COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) is affecting Canadian businesses and their operations. It has resulted in restrictions on travel and public gatherings, as well as supply chain disruptions and market uncertainty.

Personal and public health are paramount. Government, at all levels, have implemented guidelines, restrictions and recommendations. These supersede. Information can be found on the Government of Canada website at: <https://bit.ly/2x3WnDf>. This information is currently being updated daily.

During this period, the following guidelines may help address any questions you may have:

### **Audits due in 2020:**

- For all programs audited by AWSA the re-audit due dates are the 31<sup>st</sup> of December. For audits booked during the next several months (i.e. until June 2020) AWSA Auditors have been advised to suspend all in-person site visits.

### **New Sites/Renovations:**

- Sites that are currently being newly commissioned or being renovated require a physical audit before product can be stored. Auditors have been provided guidance on how to address these situations. Please contact your AWSA Auditor to discuss options.

### **Change of Ownership:**

- Sites that are undergoing a change of ownership are required to complete an audit within 90 days of ownership transfer. Reasonable extensions will be granted, but a completed application form and insurance verification will be still required. Please contact your AWSA Auditor to facilitate extensions.

### **Pre-Audit Rebates – Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards:**

- Pre-audit incentives for the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards have a deadline of March 31, 2020 to receive a \$400 rebate on the cost of a pre-audit.

AWSA will be extending the pre-audit incentive period indefinitely. In the interim please contact an AWSA Auditor so we can track operators seeking certification.

**AWSA Office:**

- For the next several weeks we will have no staff in the office, with most working from home. It is expected that there will be minimal delays in responding to emails and phone calls. There may be some delays in sending compliance certificates. Electronic certificates will continue to be issued.

We thank you all for your understanding and patience during these challenging times. As the situation evolves, we will endeavor to provide revised guidelines. If you have any questions please email our Project Manager, Anthony Laycock at [manager@awsa.ca](mailto:manager@awsa.ca)

Regards,

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Russel Hurst  
Executive Director