

# STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

## REVISED

### AWSA Auditing Approach during COVID-19

### July 23, 2021

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On March 17, 2020 AWSA released a statement advising that all physical (in person) aspects of auditing for the various codes and programs under AWSA management were to cease until further notice. A virtual auditing process was adopted to provide all ag-retailers/operators with an avenue for certification/re-certification in accordance with code requirements.

Since March 17, 2020 more than 1200 virtual audits have been completed successfully.

Canada's recent successfully COVID-19 vaccination program has prompted a review of our virtual only auditing policy. As of July 20, 2021, 70% of all Canadians have received one vaccination. 51% of all Canadians are fully vaccinated. All provinces are gradually re-opening their economies with many workers returning to in-person work environments.

Given these factors and based on feedback from ag-retailers and auditors a revised COVID-19 policy comes into effect on August 1, 2021.

#### **Revised COVID-19 Auditing Policy:**

Effective August 1, 2021 audits can be completed either virtually or in-person. Ag-retailers have the option of booking an in-person audit or a virtual audit for any of the codes audited by AWSA subject to the following conditions:

- The ag-retailer has the choice of either a virtual or in-person audit.
- Auditors also have a choice of completing an audit virtually or in-person depending on their individual circumstances.
- Both parties must agree to either an in-person audit or a virtual audit.
- Provincial COVID-19 guidelines must permit in-person visits. Based on a July 1, 2021 review of provincial reopening plans, an in-person audit is permissible in all provinces. Please ensure you remain current with your provincial guidelines. If a provincial guideline changes which disallows in-person visits, all in-person audits will convert to virtual audits.
- If an in-person audit is to be completed, the following additional conditions apply:

- All parties will complete a COVID-19 symptom assessment and be symptom free (see waiver).
- Social distancing is practiced at all times during the audit.
- Face masks are to be worn at all times during the audit.
- A COVID-19 waiver is completed.
- Adherence to all ag-retailer COVID-19 related policies.

This policy applies to the following programs:

- AWSA Warehousing Standards
- AWSA Accredited Seed Treatment Operations Standards
- Fertilizer Canada's Anhydrous Ammonia Code of Practice
- Fertilizer Canada's Agricultural Calcium Ammonium Nitrate Security Code of Practice
- Fertilizer Canada's Agricultural Ammonium Nitrate Code of Practice
- Fertilizer Canada's 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification.

This policy is subject to review on November 30, 2021.

For further information please contact:

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## COVID-19 Release of Liability, Waiver of all Possible Claims and Assumption of Risk

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and various states of emergencies have been declared in Canadian provinces. As a result, federal, provincial, and local government health agencies recommend social distancing and other measures to mitigate transmission of COVID-19.

I hereby acknowledge that I have agreed to meet with \_\_\_\_\_  
(the "AUDITOR")

at \_\_\_\_\_ (the "Facility") for the purpose of  
completing a compliance audit (the "Services") for (check all Standards and/or Codes that apply):

- AWSA Warehousing Standards
- AWSA Accredited Seed Treatment Operations Standards
- Fertilizer Canada Anhydrous Ammonia Code of Practice
- Fertilizer Canada Agricultural Calcium Ammonium Nitrate Security Code of Practice
- Fertilizer Canada Agricultural Ammonium Nitrate Code of Practice.

- i) I acknowledge and accept that there is a risk that I could be exposed to COVID-19 while attending at the Facility. I acknowledge and confirm that I am willing to accept this risk as a condition of attending at the Facility to receive services from the AUDITOR.
- ii) I acknowledge that I am aware that a virtual audit option is available in lieu of an in-person audit and I have requested that an in-person audit be completed.
- iii) I acknowledge to the best of my ability the following of my staff:
  - a. that staff have not traveled outside of the country in the past 14 days;
  - b. that staff are not currently suffering from, and have not suffered from a cough, fever, or any other flu-like symptoms in the last 14 days;
  - c. that staff are not currently diagnosed with COVID-19, that they have not tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, nor have anyone been tested and currently awaiting test results;
  - d. that to the best of staff knowledge, within the last 14 days, have not been exposed to anyone diagnosed with COVID-19, who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days or who is currently awaiting test results;
  - e. That all contractors and visitors visiting this site have been screened prior to entry.

In consideration of the AUDITOR agreeing to see me in person at the Facility, I agree to release the AUDITOR, Crop Life Canada, the Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association, Fertilizer Canada, Funnel Communications Inc. and their officers, directors, employees, agents and volunteers (the "Releasees") from any and all causes of action, claims, demands, requests, damages or any recourse whatsoever in respect of any personal injuries or other damages, including business interruption, which may occur or arise as a result of exposure to COVID-19 through the provision of services by the AUDITOR.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_