



MEMO

DATE: April 23, 2019

TO: Commercial seed treatment operations

FROM: Russel Hurst, CropLife Canada

SUBJECT: CropLife Canada members expand the scope of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards (Phase 2)

Phase 2 of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards are set to become effective January 01, 2021. This letter provides advance notice of the implementation schedule.

CropLife Canada members recently decided to expand the scope of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards program to encompass ALL commercial seed treatment facilities (as defined by treating seed for sale or gain).

Effective January 01, 2021 only commercial seed treatment operations that have successfully completed an audit for the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards with an AWSA auditor will be eligible to receive shipments of seed treatment products from distributors or ag-retailers for commercial application.

How does this impact you?

If you are a commercial seed treatment operator (as defined by treating seed for sale or gain) you will need to become certified as an Accredited Seed Treatment Operator under the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards in order to receive seed treatment products for commercial application after January 1, 2021. This will apply to all seed treatment products for all domestically treated commodities unless otherwise stated (such as exemptions for research facilities or other unique situations).

Growers treating seed on-farm for use on their own farm use will continue to be exempt from the scope of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards.

Pre-audit Incentive

Commercial seed treatment operations, not currently Accredited, that will be impacted by the expanded scope of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards are encouraged to undergo a pre-audit with an AWSA auditor to gain a better understanding of the standards and what is required to become accredited. There is currently a pre-audit incentive deadline of March 31, 2020 to receive a **\$400** rebate on the cost of a pre-audit. To find out more information about scheduling a pre-audit at your facility visit www.awsa.ca for a list of AWSA auditors.



If there are questions about the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards, please contact Anthony Laycock at 877-236-2972 or manager@awsa.ca.

Regards,

Russel Hurst
VP, Sustainability & Stewardship
CropLife Canada

Cc. Pierre Petelle, President & CEO, CropLife Canada
Anthony Laycock, Project Manager, AWSA



Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards – Background Information

The Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards were developed by CropLife Canada and its members in collaboration with industry and government stakeholders as a cooperative effort to safeguard the industry and proactively minimize the environmental, health and safety risks associated with the storage and application of seed treatment products at commercial seed treatment facilities in Canada. On-farm seed treatment is beyond the scope of the standards.

The standards are designed to address and manage identified areas of potential risk that include spill prevention, emergency response preparedness, safe product handling/application, occupational safety and employee training, and education. Additionally, the standards incorporate existing National Fire Code, National Building Code, National Electrical Code and applicable occupational health and safety regulations.

The standards were developed between 2010 and 2013, initially released in 2014, re-issued in 2016 and became mandatory in 2018 for designated seed treatment products applied to corn, canola and soybeans (Phase One). A current designated seed treatment product listing is posted at: awsa.ca/accredited-seed-treatment-operation-standards/designated-seed-treatment-products/

In order to ensure that the standards were equitably applied and enforced, CropLife Canada and its members engage in third party AWSA auditors to assess compliance. Those commercial seed treatment operations that were within the scope of Phase One of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards were eligible to receive designated seed treatment products for commercial application on corn, canola and soybeans as of January 01, 2018.

Phase Two of the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards is scheduled to become effective January 01, 2021 at which time ALL commercial seed treatment operations are required to have successfully completed an audit with an AWSA auditor to receive shipments of seed treatment products from distributors or ag-retailers for commercial application.

AWSA has developed a pre-audit incentive program for seed treatment operations to have an AWSA auditor visit their operation to provide them with a clear understanding of the standards and provide sites with an assessment of what is required to become accredited. A copy of the Accredited Seed treatment Operation Standards, reference documents, supporting materials, procedural templates, technical Bulletins, AWSA auditor listing and a complete listing of commercial seed treatment operations that have successfully passed the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation standards audit is posted at: awsa.ca/accredited-seed-treatment-operation-standards/

If there are questions about the Accredited Seed Treatment Operation Standards or would like to be added to the program distribution list, please contact Anthony Laycock at **877-236-2972** or manager@awsa.ca.