

STAKEHOLDER NOTICE

REVISED

AWSA Auditing Approach during COVID-19

December 1, 2021

On August 1, 2021, AWSA released a revised COVID-19 policy regarding audit activities. This policy was set to expire on November 30, 2021.

Given COVID-19 restrictions continue to vary by Province and the trajectory of COVID-19 for the next few months remains unpredictable this policy will remain in place until April 1, 2022.

COVID-19 Auditing Policy:

Effective December 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.
 - Adherence to all ag-retailer COVID-19 related policies.

Please note, as the date of this memorandum, the Province of Alberta is in a state of public health emergency. In person auditing in Alberta is not permitted until restrictions lessen.

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 March 31, 2022.

For further information please contact:

Anthony Laycock
Program Manager
1-877-236-2972
manager@awsa.ca