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## **STAKEHOLDER NOTICE**

### **AWSA Auditing Approach during COVID-19**

### **March 17, 2022**

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Since the inception of COVID-19 in March 2020, AWSA management has provided guidance for auditing activities that were compliant with the various Provincial COVID-19 guidelines.

This approach, which including virtual auditing, allowed auditing activities to continue whilst ensuring COVID-19 protocols were adhered to. Certification processes remained stringent and rigorous during the COVID-19 restriction period.

COVID-19 is now slowly moving into the endemic stage and restrictions across Canada have lessened. AWSA management, in consultation with Fertilizer Canada and CropLife Canada, continues to review and revise guidelines for auditing activities to ensure alignment with the most recent Federal and Provincial Government recommendations, guidelines and directives.

Effective April 1, 2022, all audits, including quality assurance audits, will return to in-person. Virtual auditing will not be available after this date. Auditors will follow all site rules pertaining to the use of personal protection equipment and social distancing. If a province or municipality imposes future COVID-19 restrictions, auditing processes will be modified to comply.

We thank all industry stakeholders for working with AWSA over the last two years as we addressed the challenges associated with COVID-19.

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

If you have questions, please contact your Auditor, or contact the AWSA office at [manager@awsa.ca](mailto:manager@awsa.ca)

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