

Agrichemical Warehousing Standard Association

ACCREDITED SEED TREATMENT STANDARDS BULLETIN

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Grandfather Provisions

Introduction:

When the initial code was released in 2014, a period of time was allowed for seed treatment operations to seek grandfather status for specific sections of the code. Sites that were pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 were eligible grandfathered designation. A record of this designation is held in the AWSA office. This grandfathering provision applies for protocols A1, A2, B2, B3, B7 and B10.

In addition, the 2022 edition of the Code changed protocols B7(b) and B10(b) from 30 points to mandatory protocols.

Conditions to maintain Grandfathered Designation:

- This designation is provisional upon the successful completion of a full audit by January 1, 2017
- Operations that lapse for more than 12 months will lose their grandfathered status.
- Renovation activities may impact grandfathered protocols (A1, A2, B2, B3, B7, B10). Operators should contact the AWSA office prior to initiating renovations for confirmation on the impact the planned renovations may have on their grandfathered status. Further expansion of the grandfathered condition will not be permitted.

Grandfathered Protocols:

Protocol A1 states:

All storage and fixed seed treatment areas are located at distances in excess of **30m** from environmentally sensitive areas.

*Storage and fixed seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 were grandfathered with respect to the **30m** buffer. Confirmation of grandfathering approval is held on file by AWSA.*

The grandfathering provision stated that for grandfathered operations located within 30m of environmentally sensitive areas, at the time of auditing for grandfather approval, written authorization and/or notice from local authorities having jurisdiction (i.e. local planning authorities, or the Ministry of Environment) was provided. Where authorities had not provided written authorization, a receipt of the operation's request being sent to the authority having jurisdiction was provided.

Protocol A2 states:

All facilities are located at distances beyond established municipal flood plains (100 yr.).

Existing sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, were grandfathered with respect to the flood plain (100 yr.). Confirmation of grandfathering approval is held on file by AWSA.

The grandfathering provision stated that for grandfathered operations located within established municipal flood plans (100 yr.) at the time of auditing for grandfather approval, written authorization and/or notice from local authorities having jurisdiction (i.e. local planning authorities, or the Ministry of Environment) was provided. Where authorities had not provided written authorization, a receipt of the operation's request being sent to the authority have jurisdiction was provided.

Protocol B2 states:

- a. The exterior walls of the seed treatment area(s) are constructed to provide a minimum one-hour fire resistance rating or be constructed of non-combustible material.

Seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be grandfathered and exempted from this provision.

- b. The seed treatment area(s), if enclosed within a building, must be separated from other occupancies by a permanent two-hour fire separation. Interior fire compartment separation wall openings are provided with self-closing doors and if applicable, fire dampers having resistance rating of 1.5 hours, including the frames.

Seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be grandfathered and exempted from this provision, with the exception of offices, lunchrooms and maintenance shops.

Seed treatment areas pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015 can be also grandfathered to allow for seed cleaning activities in the same area as the seed treatment area. Sites not grandfathered require separation, as outlined in Protocol B2, between the seed cleaning area and the seed treatment area.

Protocol B3 states:

For storage and/or seed treatment areas, windows that have been installed in interior fire separation walls are required to have a fire resistance rating of 2 hours, mounted in fixed steel frames.

For sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, windows could have been wired glass provided that they were not less than 6mm thick and mounted in fixed steel frames.

Protocol B7 states: The accredited area:

- a) The storage area has a containment system in place to contain volumes of spilled liquids.
- b) The seed treatment area has a containment system in place to contain volumes of spilled liquids.

B7(a), States all storage areas must have containment. This is a mandatory protocol. The grandfathering provision stated that for sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, that are protected by a containment system incorporating floor drains sloped to a containment area which is 10cm lower than the perimeter surface, and/or drains leading to a designed containment area for chemical spills, they are grandfathered for the sloped floor configuration.

In 2022, Protocol B7(b) changed from being 30 points to being mandatory. Sites pre-audited to March 31, 2015 are considered grandfathered and not required to meet this mandatory requirement.

Protocol B10 states:

- a. Floors and floor support structures for the storage area must be constructed of non-combustible materials.
- b. Floors and floor support structures for seed treatment areas must be constructed of non-combustible materials.

For b10(a), no grandfathering provisions were allowed.

For B10(b) for sites pre-audited prior to March 31, 2015, for seed treatment areas which are constructed of combustible materials, if they were elevated they must have a minimum one-hour fire resistance rating on the underside of the supporting structure (floor), around the perimeter with solid barrier sheathing. If not elevated (i.e., the floor supports are resting on the ground), the floor does not require a fire resistance rating, nor is sheathing required around the perimeter.

In 2022, Protocol B10(b) changed from being 30 points to being mandatory. For sites certified prior to January 1, 2022 that scored zero points for protocol B7(b) are considered grandfathered and not required to meet this mandatory requirement. Any retrofits/renovations done after January 1, 2022, will require containment.