



**Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards
2023 AUDIT TIME ESTIMATE CARD**

Upon initial registration with AWSA, an operator will be assigned an auditor. Audits should be scheduled well in advance of the preferred audit date to avoid a shortage of auditing services. Operators are responsible for working with their Auditors to book and complete the audit. Auditors may charge for subsequent reaudits. Operators may request a change in Auditor by contacting AWSA management prior to completing the audit.

Mandatory Audit for PAS Certification

The Water Assessment and Equipment Management requirements found Section C of the Standards are mandatory requirements for PAS certification. In Section C there are four protocols which cover water management assessment, chemigation system monitoring, chemigation system maintenance and spill response related to the closed recirculation system.

Fees payable for performance of audits are payable directly by the operator to the Auditor and each operator will be invoiced for the audit directly by the Auditor. The cost of the audit will vary depending on several factors including size of the operation, availability of relevant paperwork, preparedness of the operator and number of interactions required. Audits for section C typically range between 3 to 4 hours of auditor time. For reference purposes only, the average hourly rate is estimated to be \$125.00. During the initial consultation and orientation, the hourly rate charged by the auditor will be established and total fees will be discussed based on an estimate of total hours required for the audit.

Note: These audit fees do not include the Water Assessment test (protocol C1). That test is completed by the operator or another third party.

AWSA reserves the right to request that an in-person audit be conducted if the virtual audit is deemed inconclusive by the auditor. Additionally, AWSA may implement in person audit requirements on operators for future audit cycles. If travel is required, expenses may be charged by the auditor to the operator for travel time, mileage, accommodation, meals, and transit (air/rail/car rental). All fees/expenses are subject to applicable provincial/federal taxes. The Auditor shall be solely responsible for the collection, remission and payment of all applicable taxes, duties and levies imposed by federal, provincial or other governmental authorities.

Certificate of Excellence Audit:

Recognizing that the health and safety protocols have not been applied across the entirety of the protected agriculture sector, sections A (Pesticide Handling, Storage & Training), B (Pesticide Application), D (Site Management) and E (Emergency Response) of the program are voluntary. Operators who voluntarily complete these sections along with Section C will be issued a Certificate of Excellence (COE) which demonstrates a commitment to workplace excellence. This is to be discussed with the Auditor during the initial orientation meeting.

Incentives: In order to promote industry best practices, CropLife Canada is providing an incentive for any operation completing the full audit (Certificate of Excellence and PAS Certification) by Dec 31, 2023. The full audit consists of the successful completion of all protocols within the PAS standard (Sections A through E). CropLife Canada will cover the audit costs for any operation that completes the full audit by Dec. 31, 2023. This does not include any costs associated with the completion of the water assessment (protocol C1).

Sites that attempt but do not complete the full audit before December 31, 2023 will be invoiced by the auditor for the full audit fees (estimate 7 – 10 hours).

As an added incentive, those operations that achieved Certificate of Excellence before December 31, 2023 will be allowed to self-audit for their next audit cycle (2025).