

Agrichemical Warehousing Standard Association
PROTECTED AGRICULTURE STEWARDSHIP BULLETIN

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**WHO MUST MEET THE PROTECTED AGRICULTURE
STEWARDSHIP STANDARDS?**

Background:

The 2016 Proposed Re-evaluation Decision by PMRA (PRVD2016-20) for imidacloprid raised water quality concerns related to greenhouse product use. During the re-evaluation it was noted that while growers consistently adhere to all label requirements, there are still incidents where inadvertent leaks and cross connections lead to the loss of product to surface water sources. As a result, a group of impacted stakeholders agreed to work towards the development of a credible protected agriculture pesticide lifecycle stewardship program. The approach focuses on adherence to a national standard that supports compliance with registered pesticide label directions and the mitigation of risks associated with crop protection tools, fostering the health and safety of people and the environment.

Who must register under the program?

Protected Agriculture (PA) refers to crops that are grown under structures such as greenhouses or warehouses, where crops are grown in self-contained controlled environments. Crops grown using these systems include fruit, vegetables, flowers and other commercial crops (e.g., cannabis). The trigger for registration is the purchase of Pest Control Products (PCP) registered products labelled for greenhouse use by a protected agriculture operator. All other PCP products are out of scope. All PA operations, of any crop, purchasing these products must register under the program.

Exclusions from registration:

The program does not currently apply to the following operations.

1. The program is not intended to capture high tunnels, cold frames or similar structures with open sides that are not self-contained. The following [definition](#) from PMRA should be used for interpretation:

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“The PMRA currently defines a high tunnel as a single or multi-bay walk-in structure without a foundation, typically covered with impermeable material and set over crops in fields. High tunnels may be seasonal, movable, and are ventilated mainly by opening the sides and the ends of the structure. In contrast, the PMRA defines a greenhouse as a permanent, enclosed walk-in structure where crops are grown in appropriate growing media on elevated benches, containers or troughs placed on the ground. Ambient conditions such as temperature, humidity, and ventilation are controlled with either high or low technology systems, and pesticide spray drift is not released into the environment. From a regulatory perspective, other types of walk-in, permanent enclosed spaces that are used for crop production (for example, mushroom or endive) are also considered to be greenhouses.”

2. The program does not apply to government (federal, provincial municipal, Crown corporations) or academic facilities that are used for research only, or to research organizations under contract to government or academic partners.
3. The program does not capture vertical farming operations as there are currently no PCPs registered or authorized for use in Canada for what is commonly referred to as "vertical farming". See the following PMRA [Information Note](#) for more information.

Who must be certified under the program?

Any operator using a closed-loop irrigation/chemigation system must be certified under the standard. These operations are defined as Category 1. A closed system is one where any excess irrigation/chemigation liquid delivered to the crop is captured via trough, drainage tile, or other similar conveyance system, rather than allowed to percolate into the ground.

Exclusion: Warehouse production structures and freight container growing operations with no subterranean plumbing and continuous flooring are excluded from Category 1 but included in Category 2 (i.e. require waivers).

Who needs a waiver?

All other PA operations (Category 2) must complete a self-declaration waiver that states they fall outside of Category 1. This includes warehouse production structures and freight container growing operations with no subterranean plumbing and continuous flooring.

For more information, please visit awsa.ca.