



Fertilizer Safety & Security Council  
Conseil de la sécurité en fertilisation

## AMMONIA CODE OF PRACTICE

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BULLETIN # 01-2014

June 18, 2014

### **EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: Ammonia Code of Practice and Implementation Guide Amendments regarding Lapsed Certification, Site Expansion, Site Renovations, New Operations and Siting Requirements**

The Ammonia Code of Practice (Code) and Implementation Guide was last revised in January 2012. Since that time, a number of questions have been received by the FSSC on issues relating to lapsed certification, site expansion, site renovation, new operations and the corresponding siting requirements. The Fertilizer Safety and Security Council (FSSC) has provided interpretations to reflect the initial intent of Code and to maintain a high standard of operation.

The amendments identified below are intended to provide clarification of the Code requirements and are **effective immediately**. Please insert a copy of this Bulletin into the relevant sections of your copy of the Code and Implementation Guide. All future editions of the Ammonia Code of Practice will encompass these changes.

#### **Code and Implementation Guide Amendments**

1) Policy on Lapsed Certification (Page 17)

The following statement is added to this section:

*Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of the Code, for any site certified prior to January 1, 2011 and “grandfathered” under Section A1.1 of the Code (as being closer than 1.5 km from a border of a city, town, village or hamlet, or from evacuation sensitive facilities such as hospitals, schools, residential developments or senior citizens homes and 500 meters from any occupancy and 50m from an environmentally sensitive area), where such certification has been permitted to lapse for a period of greater than 12*

*consecutive months, the grandfather exemption will be withdrawn and such site will be ineligible for future recertification.*

## 2) Policy Statement - Renovations of Certified Facilities (Page 18)

This section is amended by the addition of the following language, highlighted in yellow for ease of reference:

*Periodically it is expected that sites certified under the Ammonia Code of Practice will make changes to their sites. Any renovation made to a site must comply with the Code and sites should be compliant with the Code at all times. If significant renovations or replacement are performed, such as movement, replacement, expansion or addition of fixed storage vessels, ~~the significant renovations or replacement~~ must be audited for compliance with Section B of the Ammonia Code of Practice before ~~use~~ being brought into service. The full site will be subject to a ~~complete~~ full re-audit by their next scheduled re-audit date.*

*Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of the Code, for sites certified under the Code prior to January 1, 2011 and “grandfathered” under Section A1.1 of the Code (as being closer than 1.5 km from a border of a city, town, village or hamlet, or from evacuation sensitive facilities such as hospitals, schools, residential developments or senior citizens homes and 500 meters from any occupancy and 50m from an environmentally sensitive area) the following restrictions apply:*

- any renovations to fixed storage vessels may not increase the capacity for product storage*
- additional fixed storage vessels are not permitted*
- while replacement or renewal of aging or obsolete fixed storage vessels is encouraged, any replacement vessels shall not have a larger storage capacity than the equipment being replaced.*

## 3) Section A – Siting and Exterior Requirements (Page 22)

This section is amended with the following language highlighted in yellow for ease of reference:

*This section applies to the following ammonia storage and handling operations:*

- **Fixed Storage Operations**—are defined as a storage vessel supported on the ground by a foundation system. The foundation system can be permanent or temporary in nature.
- **Anhydrous Ammonia Equipment Storage Operations**—are defined as an area where anhydrous ammonia vessels, with a combined aggregate volume greater than 10,000 liters, are stored for a period greater than 72 hours. Storage areas where all the vessels have been emptied and de-pressured will be exempt from inclusion in this definition.
- **Railcar Transload Operations**—are defined as anhydrous ammonia operations utilized for the loading and off-loading of railcars.

A1 Siting requirements—distance from people

**A1.1 ~~New Construction~~ Anhydrous Ammonia Equipment Storage and Handling Operations**

<b>NO.</b>	<b>PROTOCOL</b>	<b>Full Compliance Score</b>	<b>Actual Score</b>
A1.1	<p>The minimum distances from occupancies for siting an anhydrous ammonia storage and handling operation <del>commissioned</del> <b>certified under the Ammonia Code of Practice after January 1, 2011</b> are:</p> <p>1.5 kilometres from the border of a City, Town, Village or Hamlet, or from evacuation sensitive facilities such as hospitals, schools, residential developments or senior citizens homes;</p> <p>and</p> <p>500 metres from <u>any</u> occupancy. (E.g. a rural residence or a small business).</p> <p>and</p> <p>50m from an environmentally sensitive area (lake, stream, wetland etc).</p> <p>and</p> <p>Approval from the local authority having jurisdiction is also required.</p> <p>Compliance will be indicated by documentation such as dated</p>	Mandatory	

<p><i>plans demonstrating the required distances, and local authority approval documentation.</i></p> <p><i>The recommended best practice is to locate new anhydrous ammonia storage and handling operations a minimum of 3.0 kilometres from the boundary of a City, Town, Village, Hamlet or evacuation sensitive facilities.</i></p>		
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4) Implementation Guide – Section A – Siting and Exterior Requirements

The definition for Environmentally Sensitive Area is amended with the following language highlighted in yellow for ease of reference (page 87):

***Environmentally Sensitive Area** is a lake, stream, wetland etc. that contains some wildlife. Ammonia storage tanks ~~commissioned since January 2009~~ **certified on or after January 1, 2011** must be at least 50 metres from an environmentally sensitive area. A ditch that tends to run wet or a dugout is not considered an environmentally sensitive area.*

5) Implementation Guide - Protocol A1.1 Siting Requirements for New Facilities (Page 88).

The definition of “new facility” is amended with the following language highlighted in yellow for ease of reference:

*A1.1 Siting Requirements for New Facilities*

*“New” is defined as ~~coming into operation~~ **being certified under the Ammonia Code of Practice on or after January 1, 2011**.*

*Both distances apply. A new ammonia operation must be 1.5km from population concentrations as well as 500m from a farmhouse or other small (non-evacuation sensitive) occupancy.*

*While permissions from local authorities is a requirement for this section, local authority permission or an operating permit from a regulatory authority by itself does not constitute compliance with this section.*

Any questions pertaining to the amendments listed in this bulletin should be directed to info@fssc.ca.

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