



FERTILIZER CANADA

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Urging the Government to Federally Mandate the Fertilizer Supply Chain as an Essential Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2020

Ottawa, ON – Fertilizer Canada is urging the federal government to designate the entire fertilizer supply chain as an essential service and provide relief to workers who face expiring training certificates. The government must ensure that policies will protect our industry workers from any sort of supply chain disruption and to ensure continued movement of product throughout the supply chain.

On March 19, 2020, the United States' Department of Homeland Security, in collaboration with the Secretary of Agriculture, designated significant portions of US fertilizer supply chain as "Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers." This guidance is intended to be used by US federal, state, and local governments to make decisions about what classes of workers may be excluded from shelter in place requirements. It is an acknowledgement that the workers in this supply chain are necessary to the country's recovery from COVID-19.

"The next two months are critical, both for the Canadian response to the COVID-19 pandemic but also to our farmer customers who are already beginning preparations for the spring planting season," said Garth Whyte, President & CEO of Fertilizer Canada. "The federal government must maintain our national food supply chains and, mirror the actions in the United States of America, draft a list of essential critical infrastructure workers that could be used by federal departments and provincial and territorial governments to make decisions."

Fertilizer Canada is recommending the list include the entire Canadian fertilizer supply chain, from manufacturing in plants, to transportation, to ag-retail locations that allow farmers to receive their goods

Additionally, in order to maintain continued operations, individuals who are critical to product manufacturing lines and transportation in person training has been suspended, until a set time after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fertilizer Canada is requesting the government extend the expiry dates of certifications for workers in our industry possess, where it is safe to do so.

At a time when the situation is rapidly changing, and new policies are being brought in on a continual basis, it is important that governments do not create unintended consequences for the agriculture industry.



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Fertilizer Canada represents manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur fertilizers. The fertilizer industry plays an essential role in Canada's economy, contributing \$24 billion annually and over 76,000 jobs. As the unified voice of the Canadian fertilizer industry, Fertilizer Canada works to promote the safe, responsible, and sustainable distribution and use of fertilizer. Please visit fertilizercanada.ca.

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