

# Anhydrous Ammonia Code of Practice

## Frequently Asked Questions

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**1. I have an audit scheduled this fall (between July 1 and December 31, 2016). Will I be audited to the revised January 2017 Ammonia Code?**

The revised January 2017 Ammonia Code comes into force January 1, 2017. The current version of the Ammonia Code (January 2012) will remain in effect until that time. Your fall audit will verify compliance with the January 2012 version.

**2. What changed between the 2012 version and the 2017 version of the anhydrous ammonia code?**

A number of changes and clarifications were made in the 2017 revision of the Ammonia Code. The most significant amendments include the following:

- Pull-away protection on nurse tanks – As of January 1, 2017, all new nurse tanks of capacity of 10,000L or greater, or any multiple tank configuration must be equipped with pull away protection. All existing tanks meeting these characteristics must install pull-away protection over a 5-year phase-in period by January 1, 2022.
- End-user storage – If end-users receive product into a fixed storage vessel on the farm, they must be certified under the Ammonia Code of Practice.
- Vessel marking – Vessels must be placarded in accordance with Transport Canada Regulations which requires placards on all four sides of the tank.

Other amendments in the 2017 revision of the Ammonia Code include clarifications to the following:

- Expansion/Renovation
- Lapsed certification
- Vapour containment
- Maintenance schedules
- Other best practices

Further information on the amendments made in the 2017 revision of the Ammonia Code can be found on the Fertilizer Canada website in the [Detailed Summary of Amendments to Fertilizer Canada's Agricultural Ammonia Code of Practice 2017 Version](#).

**3. The previous version of the Ammonia Code allowed vessels to be labelled with two placards. The 2017 version Code now requires four placards. Can I still use only two placards?**

Two placards may be permissible under Fertilizer Canada's or the Canadian Association of Agri-Retailer's Equivalency Certificate issued by Transport Canada however, the Certificate expires May 31, 2017. The Certificate will not be renewed and therefore all vessels should be placarded on all four sides as of this date.

Please review Part 4 of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations for additional details on placarding requirements.

**4. The regular sized placards don't fit on the back or front of my nurse tank. How am I supposed to comply?**

Part 4.7 (3) of the Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulation allows for a smaller placard to be used in incidents where a regular sized placard will not fit. Please review Part 4 of the TDG Regulation for specific sizing details.

**5. Who does the Anhydrous Ammonia Code apply to?**

The Ammonia Code applies to all agri-retail facilities in Canada that store or retail anhydrous ammonia including requirements for road/rail transportation, storage and handling operations (both fixed and temporary) and associated facilities such as equipment storage areas.

Farmers may choose on a voluntary basis to apply the requirements of the Ammonia Code on their farm, however if they receive ammonia into a fixed storage vessel, it is mandatory to be certified under the Ammonia Code.

The Ammonia Code is not intended to apply to manufacturing, repair shops, industrial end use or refrigeration.

**6. How do I schedule an audit?**

To schedule an audit, please contact your region's Ammonia Code auditor using the [Fertilizer Canada website](#).

You can also contact the Ammonia Code Project Manager at 1-866-311-0444 or by email at [ammoniacode@funnel.ca](mailto:ammoniacode@funnel.ca).

**7. My ammonia site is certified under the Code but has recently changed ownership. Do I need to be re-audited?**

That depends. A facility must be re-audited within 90 days of the transfer of ownership regardless of the last audit date however; the facility owner can apply to wave this requirement if the ownership change does not involve a change of personnel.

For more information, please see the “Change in Ownership” Section of the [Anhydrous Ammonia Code of Practice](#).

**8. What happens if my certification expires?**

Lapsed certification is defined as withdrawal of certification resulting from:

- Voluntary decertification ;
- Failure to successfully re-audit before the expiry date; or
- Withdrawal of certification by program management.

If certification is lost due to any of the above reasons, the Ammonia Code Program Manager will notify all anhydrous ammonia manufacturers and/or distributors of your certification lapse and you will not be eligible to receive shipments of anhydrous ammonia. Failure to maintain certification may also affect your insurance coverage. Any site which has been grandfathered under Section A1.1 of the Ammonia Code will lose their grandfathered status should their certification lapse for any reason for a period greater than 12 consecutive months. All exemptions granted under the grandfathered status will be revoked and the site will be expected to comply with the current version of the Ammonia Code in order to be re-certified.

For more information, please see the “Policy on Lapsed Certification” Section of the [Anhydrous Ammonia Code of Practice](#).

**9. How do I renew my certification?**

All facilities require a full re-audit every 2 years to maintain certification status. The responsibility of scheduling and coordinating a re-audit within the required timeframe lies with the facility. An audit/re-audit should be coordinated at least 60 days in advance of the audit deadline to ensure the availability of an auditor.

Should a site have a lapsed certification, a successful re-audit will restore it to good standing. An administration fee of \$500.00 will be required to re-activate your certification status. Upon re-certification, all manufacturers and distributors of anhydrous ammonia will be notified and the suspension of shipments will be removed. Facilities will then re-audit according to their original audit schedule prior to the lapse (it will not jump a cycle).

To schedule an audit, please contact your region's Ammonia Code auditor using the [Fertilizer Canada website](#).

You can also contact the Ammonia Code Project Manager at 1-866-311-0444 or by email at [ammoniacode@funnel.ca](mailto:ammoniacode@funnel.ca).

**10. Will I receive a certificate showing that I am compliant with the Anhydrous Ammonia Code of Practice?**

Yes. After your site has successfully passed an audit, a certificate will be e-mailed for your records.

Your certification status will also be included in the Code database where manufacturers are able to verify your certification status.

**11. Are there training resources available?**

Fertilizer Canada offers several anhydrous ammonia eLearning courses including:

- Anhydrous Ammonia Safe Storage and Handling
- Anhydrous Ammonia First Responder Training
- Anhydrous Ammonia Safety and the Farmer
- Driver Fatigue Training for Management and Drivers

Please see Fertilizer Canada's [eLearning webpage](#) for more information on how to access these free web courses.

**12. I'm a farmer with a storage bullet on my property. Does the Ammonia Code apply to me?**

Yes. If you receive anhydrous ammonia into a fixed storage vessel, you must be certified under the Ammonia Code.

To schedule an audit, please contact your region's Ammonia Code auditor using the [Fertilizer Canada website](#).

You can also contact the Ammonia Code Project Manager at 1-866-311-0444 or by email at [ammoniacode@funnel.ca](mailto:ammoniacode@funnel.ca).

**13. The Code mentions both WHMIS 1998 and WHMIS 2015. Which version of WHMIS am I required to follow?**

Canada has changed its Workplace Hazardous Materials Information Systems (WHMIS) to align with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) to form the new WHMIS 2015. While WHMIS 2015 is currently in force, allowing suppliers to use and follow the new system, there is currently a transition period where a supplier may choose to comply fully with either

the repealed Controlled Products Regulation (WHMIS 1998) or WHMIS 2015. The timelines for the transition period between WHMIS 1998 and WHMIS 2015 are as follows:

Stage	Time Period	Supply chain level		
		Manufacturer/Importer	Distributor	Employer*
Stage 1	February 11, 2015 To May 31, 2015	WHMIS 1998 Or WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1998 Or WHMIS 2015	Consult Federal, Provincial or Territorial Regulator
Stage 2	June 1, 2017 To May 31, 2018	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1998 Or WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1998 Or WHMIS 2015
Stage 3	June 1, 2018 To November 30, 2018	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 1998 Or WHMIS 2015
Complete	December 1, 2018	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 2015	WHMIS 2015

\*Requirements may vary – please see WHMIS requirements and transition timing for your local jurisdiction

The Ammonia Code current accepts both versions of WHMIS in accordance to the transition schedule mandated by Health Canada as outlined in the table above.

**14. Do clerical staff need to have Transportation of Dangerous Goods training?**

All employees involved in the handling, offering for transport or transport of anhydrous ammonia must be trained in the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations specific to anhydrous ammonia. This may include clerical staff involved in the transportation administration process or other duties part of the process and handling of the product.

For more information, please visit Transport Canada’s [Transportation of Dangerous Goods Training information webpage](#).

**15. Do farmer-owned nurse and applicator tanks require regularly scheduled maintenance?**

Yes. All tanks must meet regulatory requirements before they can be filled. Proof that tanks are qualified for use can be found in documentation showing that the inspections and testing required by the CSA B620 standard have been completed.