



September 9, 2020

## BULLETIN #04-2020

September 9, 2020

### Interpretation of Protocols A4.1, C8.4 and C16.4 for Producers Certified Ammonia Sites

This bulletin provides clarification on the current interpretation of the storage and security requirements for vessels containing anhydrous ammonia for producer (farm) sites certified under the Ammonia Code of Practice (the Code). This bulletin also outlines changes to these requirements coming into force on January 1, 2022.

Since the inception of the Ammonia Code of Practice, the Code has stated:

*“if end users receive product into a fixed storage vessel on the farm, they must be certified under the Ammonia Code of Practice.”* (see page 5 of the 2017 Edition of the Ammonia Code of Practice).

This requirement has resulted in several farm operations being certified under the Code. All sections of the Code apply to these producer certified sites.

The following interpretations are provided to clarify storage and security requirements for vessels containing anhydrous ammonia (pressurized).

Farm sites certified prior to January 1, 2022:

- a. All **fixed storage vessels** must be secured in accordance with Protocol A4.1 (as referenced in Bulletin 04-2018).

*The anhydrous Ammonia storage and handling operation complies with the applicable requirements of the site security protocol. The anhydrous ammonia storage and handling operation must incorporate measures to prevent unauthorized access to the product.*

*The ammonia equipment secured within a security fence with lockable security gates. The minimum requirements for fencing of new sites, commissioned after January 1, 2019 is a 6' chain link with a barbed wire top. Existing ammonia code compliant sites using fencing, as the primary means of site security / compliance with this Protocol, can continue to use either 5' wire fence topped with three strand barb wire or 6' chain link with or without three strands of barb wire.*

- b. **Protocol C8 – Security for Anhydrous Ammonia Transport Vessels** – Protocols C8.1 – Securing While in Transport, C8.2 – Parking Near Evacuation Sensitive Occupancies, and C8.3 – Off-Site Storage of Transport Vessels, apply as written.



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- c. **Protocol C8 – Security for Anhydrous Ammonia Transport Vessels**– Protocol C8.4, applies as follows:

Anhydrous Ammonia Transport Vessels must have liquid valves secured while they are in storage unless they are stored inside a locked, fenced compound that complies with A4.1; or they have been emptied and de-pressurized. For sake of clarity, storage in this case includes vehicles left on farm over-night. Storing ammonia vessels inside a roofed structure is prohibited unless they have been emptied and de-pressurized.

- d. **Protocol C16 – Nurse and Applicator Tanks Security Protocol** – Protocols C16.1 – Securing While in Transport, C16.2 – Parking Near Evacuation Sensitive Occupancies, and C16.3 – Storage of Nurse and Applicator Tanks, apply as written.

- e. **Protocol C16.4 – Securing of Nurse and Applicator Tanks at Farm Locations** – applies as follows:

Anhydrous Ammonia Nurse and Applicator tanks must have liquid valves secured while they are in storage unless they are stored inside a locked, fenced compound that complies with A4.1; or they have been emptied and de-pressurized. For sake of clarity, storage in this case includes vehicles left on farm over-night. Storing ammonia vessels inside a roofed structure is prohibited unless they have been emptied and de-pressurized.

**Farm sites Certified after January 1, 2022.**

On January 1, 2022 a new edition of the Ammonia Code of Practice will be issued. This code will require all producer sites certified after January 1, 2022 to comply with the 2022 edition of the code. The 2022 edition of the code, section A.4.1, will state:

All ammonia pressure vessels (stationary and/or mobile) and piping systems are secured within a security fence with lockable security gates.

Should you have any questions regarding compliance with the Ammonia Code of Practice, contact the Ammonia Code Senior Auditor Dennis Black via email at [deblack1@mts.net](mailto:deblack1@mts.net) or via phone at (204) 512-2109, or the Ammonia Code Project Manager, Anthony Laycock via email at [manager@awsa.ca](mailto:manager@awsa.ca). You may alternatively contact Fertilizer Canada using the coordinates below.

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