

NH₃/Anhydrous Ammonia

Growers to ensure safe transportation and application of anhydrous ammonia through new training requirement

Effective November 13, 2021, growers and grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, are now required to become certified through a new safety training requirement.

Although the vast majority of anhydrous ammonia is moved in Illinois each spring and fall application season without incident, there are occasionally releases that occur that could have been prevented with some simple reminders on the properties of anhydrous ammonia, standard safe operating practices, and actions to take in the event of a leak or emergency.

This new requirement is found in the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) regulations regarding anhydrous ammonia at 8 Illinois Administrative Code 215. In the regulations, “grower” is defined as “any individual who produces and agricultural commodity on property he or she owns or controls.” “Grower farm operator” is defined as “an individual employed by or otherwise authorized by a grower to transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or to otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment. These individuals include grower family members, full-time and part-time hired help, and others providing anhydrous ammonia services at no fee.”

Growers and grower farm operators have until April 1, 2022 to be initially certified and must participate in refresher training every three years.

Certified grower training will be offered at no cost to the grower or grower farm operator via an in-person or online training program approved by the IDOA. Online is now available on the IDOA website at www.Bit.ly/IllinoisNH3. In-person training opportunities will be announced as they are developed.

Since the spring of 2019, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB) has engaged in discussions with IDOA and other agricultural groups to examine solutions that would address concerns surrounding safe transportation and application of anhydrous ammonia, but still allow for wide agricultural use of anhydrous ammonia.

IFB engaged in each stage of the rulemaking process, submitting public comments at first and second notice opportunities. As a result of that involvement, IFB is in support of this new regulatory requirement.

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