

Date: July 11, 2022

To: Dear Protected Agriculture producer:

Re: Register Now - Protected Agriculture Stewardship Program

As you may be aware, CropLife Canada and provincial and national greenhouse grower groups have been working to develop a protected agriculture stewardship program to ensure pesticides are handled responsibly within protected environments. This work has stemmed from water quality concerns identified during the [re-evaluation of imidacloprid](#) related to greenhouse product use. It is critical that we work together, as industry and agriculture, to address these issues to ensure any risks to the environment are mitigated and that growers are able to retain access to the critical crop protection tools they need. It is with this in mind that we have developed the [Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standard](#); an industry led certification that declares our commitment to the safe and sustainable use of pesticides in protected agriculture facilities. In the upcoming weeks CropLife Canada, provincial and national greenhouse grower groups will be working to deliver information sessions to ensure you understand what is required for certification, what the timelines are and how to access all the supporting documents. In delivering this program we are committed to increased awareness and continuous improvement. It is our hope to work together to deliver a strong program with high levels of compliance that will be favourably considered by stakeholders and regulators across the country.

Registration for the certification program is now open and can be accessed through the following [link](#). If you are a user of pest control products labelled for greenhouse use this notice applies and you should register through the website to either:

1. Receive an information package and be assigned an auditor, if your facility is closed-loop facilities; or
2. Declare that their operation is not closed-loop to receive self-declaration waiver information.

All facilities must be certified under the program by January 1, 2024 in order to be eligible to purchase pest control products labelled for greenhouse use. Your ag-retailer will be requesting either your certification number or self-declaration waiver after this date. In addition, Health Canada's Pest Management Regulatory Agency (PMRA) is also [requiring a third-party water audit](#) be done in order to use imidacloprid (i.e. Intercept) after May 19, 2023.

Once certified by AWSA, operators will need to be reassessed every two years thereafter to maintain certification (with the exception of the water assessment, which is every 6 years). For example, all operators certified in 2022 will be required to undergo another certification in 2024. All operators certified in 2023 will be required to undergo another certification in 2025. As an incentive to encourage operators to seek certification early, **any operator that**

successfully completes certification in 2022 will be provided the opportunity to do a self-assessment in 2024 in lieu of a full assessment, with their next full assessment being in 2026.

“Protected agriculture” refers to crops that are grown under structures such as greenhouses, shade houses, high tunnels, warehouses, etc. Crops grown using these systems include fruit, vegetables, flowers and other commercial crops (e.g., mushrooms and cannabis). Further clarity is provided on the website under “[Who do the Standards apply to?](#)”

This program is an industry-led stewardship approach championed by CropLife Canada and delivered by the [Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association](#) (AWSA). AWSA delivers a number of stewardship programs for CropLife Canada and Fertilizer Canada. AWSA auditors are private, independent contractors. Compliance under this program is not an assessment of regulatory compliance and does not relieve operators of any legal or regulatory responsibilities.

[CropLife Canada](#) represents the Canadian manufacturers, developers and distributors of pest control and modern plant breeding products.

For more information on the program please visit the [website](#) or contact Justine Taylor at taylorj@croplife.ca or Anthony Laycock at manager@awsa.ca.

