

Reguletter

Coming Soon: MDA Safety Checks for Worker Protection

As the 2015 cropping year begins, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) may be at your site to conduct an unannounced safety check to protect persons who work with treated plants or handle pesticides.

Under the federal Worker Protection Standard (WPS) the MDA is authorized to check for:

- Pesticide safety training for people (called Workers under WPS) working with pesticide-treated plants or crops.
- Pesticide safety training for people who apply, mix, load or handle pesticides (called Handlers under WPS).
- Notification to workers: Workers must be notified when a pesticide has been applied in or near a work area. Based on the pesticide label, this may be an oral warning or posted signage to advise workers where and when a pesticide has been applied.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as specified on the product label. This may include gloves, boots, coveralls, eye wear, etc.
- Decontamination materials such as soap, water and towels to workers and applicators.
- Central location emergency medical information and pesticide application records (30 days from the date of pesticide application) need to be available and accessible.

A site visit by an MDA Agricultural Chemical Inspector (ACI) may take several hours and could result in enforceable violations. WPS protects workers who produce crops (corn, soybeans, sugar beets, potatoes, small grains, greenhouse and nursery plants) and use pesticides (fungus, insect, weed and rodent control; or plant growth regulators).

Questions or for more information? Go to the MDA website at www.mda.state.mn.us and type in WPS; OR Contact Gregorio Mendez-Ortega lead MDA-WPS Inspector at: gregorio.mendez-ortega@state.mn.us; (507) 344-3204 (MDA)

Reusable NH3 Hose Ends

There have been several inquiries lately regarding the use of reusable NH3 hose ends. Below is further information regarding this subject from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

Below is information from Minnesota Rules, Part 1513.0170, and information provided by Parker Hose and Goodall Hose - two NH3 hose manufacturers.

1513.0170 HOSE SPECIFICATIONS.

- o Subpart 1. Standards.
 - Hose used in ammonia service and subject to container pressure must conform to the American National Standard RMA IP-14, Specifications for Anhydrous Ammonia Hose.
- o Subpart 2. Pressures.
 - Hose subject to container pressure must be designed for a minimum working pressure of 350 psig and a minimum burst pressure of 1,750 psig. Hose assemblies, when made up must be capable of withstanding a test pressure of 500 psig.
- o Subpart 3. Design of hoses and connections.
 - Hose and hose connections located on the low pressure side of flow control, or pressure reducing valves on devices discharging to atmospheric pressure, must be designed for the maximum low side working pressure. All connections must be designed, constructed, and installed so that there will be no leakage when connected. Shut-off valves on the end of liquid and vapor transfer hoses must be equipped with bleed valves to enable the operator to bleed off pressure before disconnecting the hoses.
- o Subpart 4. Transfer hose.
 - If a transfer hose is not drained of ammonia upon completion of transfer operations, the hose must be equipped with an approved shut-off valve at the discharge end. Provision must be made to prevent excessive hydrostatic pressure in the hose under part 1513.0180, subpart 11.
- o Subpart 5. Information on hose.
 - All hose that is one-half inch outside diameter or larger and that is used in ammonia service and subject to container pressure, must have etched, cast, or impressed at five foot

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intervals on the outer hose cover the following information:

- anhydrous ammonia;
- XXX psig (maximum working pressure);
- manufacturer's name or trademark; and
- year of manufacture or expiration.

Comments provided by Parkers Hose:

Below is the feedback from one of our product sales managers.

1. Parker does not recommend the use of reusable hose ends. Only crimped ends per Parker's recommendations are acceptable (required by Parker).
2. Parker does not specify this information for hose assemblies. Parker recommends the following in its catalog 4800.

Comments provided by Goodall Hose:

The only possible changes I would propose are:

- A statement to the effect that reusable fittings not be used in conjunction with NH₃ hoses
- A statement that all NH₃ should be bled from hoses when they are not in continuous service, basically never left with liquid trapped in the hose whether or not there is a relief valve present.

Summary:

- Minnesota anhydrous ammonia Rules 1513 does not prohibit the use re-useable hose couplings.
- Yes, hose assemblies, when made up (i.e. when assembled) must be capable of withstanding a test pressure of 500 psig per Minnesota Rules, Part 1513.0170, Subpart 2.
- Hose manufacturers requires that only factory crimped/ assembled hose couplings be used.
- Hose manufacturers recommend that anhydrous ammonia be bled from hoses when not in continuous service, basically never left with liquid trapped in the hose whether or not there is a relief valve present. (MDA/MCPR)

FMCSA Commences Annual Motor Carriers' Drug and Alcohol Testing Survey

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)'s Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), in accordance with 49 CFR § 382.403, has commenced notifying selected truck and bus companies to submit their annual DOT drug and alcohol testing program results to FMCSA.

The notification is being sent to randomly selected motor carriers via electronic mail. Those selected are responsible for ensuring the completeness, accuracy, and timeliness of their data submission. Instructions on how to respond and qualifying exemptions are included in the notification.

The selected motor carriers must submit their calendar year 2014 results by May 15, 2015. (FMCSA)

Minnesota Certified Crop Advisers to Hold August CCA Exam

The Minnesota Certified Crop Advisers Board has decided to hold the next CCA exam on Friday, August 7th at Ridgewater College in Willmar. The registration period is May 4 - June 26, 2015. Once the registration period has opened you can register at: <https://www.certifiedcropadviser.org/exams>. (MCCA)

PSM "Retail Exemption" Announcement Expected

Of great interest and importance to retailers, an announcement on OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) "Retail Exemption" is expected this summer. OSHA has gone on record as seeing any change of the current exemption as an internal policy change, not a regulatory change, so no new rulemaking would be required according to the agency. This stance is considered to be controversial by the regulated community. Stay tuned for more information.

Note: Loss of the retail exemption would potentially cause what is considered to be a Program 2 Risk Management Program (RMP) facility to become a Program 3 RMP facility. Process Safety Management (PSM) applies to manufacturing facilities and applying it to a retail facility is considered to be very difficult, if not impossible. There has been some discussion of a "PSM-Light" version of the full rule that could be introduced and implemented with some degree of effectiveness. (Asmark Institute)

U.S. EPA Revises "List of Lists"

Dated March 2015, and just recently posted publicly, U.S. EPA has posted a revised version of the consolidated "List of Lists" on their website. The List of Lists is used as a reference for many regulatory requirements, but most importantly spill reporting. Access the List of Lists by entering http://www2.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-03/documents/list_of_lists.pdf into your web browser. (Asmark Institute)

OSHA Set to Form Panel on Process Safety Management (PSM)

OSHA has announced it plans to convene a Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act panel for discussion of its Process Safety Management rule.

Topics include:

- Update of the PSM rule.
- Expand the list of hazardous chemicals.
- Addition of ammonium nitrate under the PSM regulations versus revising 29 CFR 1910.109(I).
- Expand Mechanical Integrity Procedures.
- Define "Recognized and Generally Accepted Good Engineering Practices."
- Require third-party compliance audits.
- Expand PSM regulatory coverage to include reactive hazards. (Asmark Institute)

Caution: MCS-150 vs. MCS-150B

A basic requirement of being a motor carrier in the U.S. is updating your MCS-150 Motor Carrier Profile every two years. Not to be confused with another version of the form, DOT published the MCS-150B form designed specifically to identify motor carriers with Hazardous Materials Safety Permits. Filling out and submitting the MCS-150B form rather than the MCS-150 form will throw you into the pool of carriers that transport tractor-trailer loads of materials, such as anhydrous ammonia, that require a HM Safety Permit. As you might expect, the requirements for these carriers are more stringent. With this information, we recommend that you pay very close attention in the future to ensure your update is submitted on the correct form. (Asmark Institute)