

Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards Program

Getting Started

November 23, 2023

The Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards program was established to assist protected agriculture operators in the identification and mitigation of risks associated with pesticide application with the longer-term goal of continuous environmental, health and safety improvement.

Who do the Standards apply to?

The standards apply to all Protected Agriculture operators in Canada using PCP products labelled for greenhouse use. Protected Agriculture (PA) refers to crops that are grown under structures such as greenhouses or warehouses, where crops are grown in self-contained controlled environments.

What steps do Protected Agriculture Operators need to take?

A:	Do you use PCP Products labelled for greenhouse use? • If not, no action necessary. • If yes, continue	
B:	Determine which Category your operation is	
Category 1 PA Operator (CAT1) Protected Ag Operators using any closed loop irrigation/chemigation systems are referred to as Category 1 PA Operators. A closed loop system is one where any excess irrigation/chemigation liquid delivered to the crop is captured via trough, drainage tile, or other similar conveyance system. This includes operations that use both closed loop and other irrigation systems. Note: Warehouse production structures and freight container growing operations with no subterranean plumbing and have continuous flooring are excluded from Category 1.		Category 2 PA Operator (CAT2) Protected Ag Operators not using closed loop irrigation/chemigation systems are referred to as Category 2 PA Operators.

C:	Register as either CAT 1 or CAT2 site (visit awsa.ca) before December 31, 2023	
	Category 1 PA Operator (CAT1) All Category 1 PA Operators should register before December 31, 2023. Once registered, a Temporary PAS Certificate will be issued. These Temporary PAS Certificates will expire on June 30, 2024. Category 1 PA Operators will be required to present this Temporary PAS Certificate to their suppliers in order to be eligible to receive shipments of PCP products labelled for greenhouse use in 2024. Category 1 PA Operators will also be assigned an Auditor to assist with the certification process.	Category 2 PA Operator (CAT2) All Category 2PA Operators must register to complete a Declaration of CAT2 PAS Operation Waiver declaring they are Category 2. This should be completed by December 31, 2023 in order to be eligible to purchase and receive PCP products labelled for greenhouse use in 2024. This waiver must be provided to your supplier of PCP product in 2024.
		CAT2 Sites Complete
D:	CAT1 Site – Audited and Certified before June 30, 2024 The Temporary PAS Certificates will expire on June 30, 2024. PA 1 Operators will require a complete certificate after June 30, 2024 to receive shipments of PCP products labelled for greenhouse use. The PAS Standards consist of mandatory and optional protocols. Please visit the Resources section for a copy of the Protocol Manual. In consultation with your auditor, choose Basic Certification or Certificate of Excellence Certification.	
	Basic Certification	Certificate of Excellence Certification
	For basic certification all Category 1 PA Operators must be audited and pass Section C. In Section C there are four protocols which cover water management assessment and system monitoring. PA1 Operators awarded Basic Certification by June 30, 2024, will be eligible to continue to receive shipments of PCP products labelled for greenhouse use.	Operators can also achieve a Certificate of Excellence (COE) which demonstrates a commitment to workplace excellence. To achieve COE status, in addition to section C, operators must also be audited for compliance with sections A (Pesticide Handling, Storage & Training), B (Pesticide Application), D (Site Management) and E (Emergency Response) of the Standards. PA 1 Operators awarded a Certificate of Excellence by June 30, 2024, will be eligible to continue to receive shipments of PCP products labelled for greenhouse use.