

Protected Agriculture Stewardship (PAS) program update – June 2023

Dear Operator,

In the past weeks concerns have been raised about the feasibility of some elements of the PAS program. A greenhouse leadership committee, consisting of national and provincial representatives, met with CropLife Canada and as a result of those discussions the following program changes have been proposed by CropLife Canada:

1. The Water Assessment and Equipment Management requirements found in Section C of the Standards remain mandatory requirements for PAS certification. In Section C there are four protocols which cover water management assessment, chemigation system monitoring, chemigation system maintenance and spill response related to the closed recirculation system.
2. Recognizing that the health and safety protocols have not been applied across the entirety of the protected agriculture sector, sections A (Pesticide Handling, Storage & Training), B (Pesticide Application), D (Site Management) and E (Emergency Response) of the program will no longer be required for PAS certification. However, those operators who voluntarily complete these sections will also be issued a Certificate of Excellence (COE) which demonstrates a commitment to workplace excellence.
3. To satisfy the requirements of protocol C1, the water assessment, Operators will be allowed to self-deliver their own water assessments provided that the assessment is observed by a person who is a third-party to the farm's ownership. Both the Operator and the third-party will need to attest to the delivery of the assessment and to completion of any repairs identified during the assessment. Delivery of the water assessment by a qualified third party is also still accepted.

The program documents have been finalized and are available through the [PAS website](#).

Timelines: The original timelines remain in place, meaning that **as of January 1st, 2024 any protected agriculture operator wishing to purchase PCP registered products labelled for greenhouse use will either need to be PAS certified under the program (applies to all closed-loop facilities, Category 1) or have a waiver in place (applies to all open systems where chemigation liquid is not captured, Category 2).** Complete details on Category 1 and Category 2 are available on the [PAS website](#).

Incentives: To promote industry best practices, CropLife Canada is providing an incentive for any operation completing the full audit (Certificate of Excellence and PAS Certification) by Dec 31, 2023. The full audit consists of the successful completion of all protocols within the PAS standard (Sections A through E). CropLife Canada will cover the PAS audit costs for any operation that completes the full audit by Dec. 31, 2023. These operations will also be allowed to self-audit for their next audit cycle (2025). This incentive does not include any costs associated with the completion of the water assessment (protocol C1).

Next Steps: Given the commitments that Canada has made to [reduce the risks of pollution from pesticides by at least half](#), and the ongoing PMRA [water monitoring project](#), we cannot overstate the importance of demonstrating progress on this issue. Commitment to the program will be critical to protecting growers' access to important crop protection tools. We urge all operators to immediately take steps to plan their path to certification as detailed below:

Category 1 (Closed systems)

- **Step 1 Registration** via the [PAS website](#).
- **Step 2 PAS Audit:** A PAS auditor will contact you to arrange a time to deliver your audit and discuss program options – Mandatory PAS Certification (Section C only) or Certificate of Excellence (all sections).
- **Step 3 Water Assessment:** Determine whether you will be delivering the water assessment yourself or hiring a third party to deliver the audit. If the former, plan for when you will complete the assessment and which third party will attest to the assessment. If the later, identify a qualified person to deliver the assessment and book a date for completion.
- **Step 4 Certification:** Steps 2 & 3 can be completed in any order, but certification will not be granted until both steps have been completed. Upon completion, you will be assigned a certification number which should be provided to your Ag-retailer before Jan 1, 2024.

Category 2 (Open systems)

- **Step 1 Registration** via the [PAS website](#).
- **Step 2 Complete the waiver.** You will be emailed the self-declaration waiver which should be completed and provide to your Ag-retailer before Jan 1, 2024.

For more information, please contact Justine Taylor (taylorj@croplife.ca) or Anthony Laycock (manager@awsa.ca).