


Summary of PAS Certification - Stepwise Process

Trigger for program entry: Do you purchase PCP registered product labelled for greenhouse use, for use in a greenhouse, warehouse, or container farm? The following exclusions apply: high tunnels, cold frames, government facilities, academic research facilities. See Bulletin 1 for further clarity.	
YES – Continue to Step 1	NO – No action required.
Step 1: Determine which category your operations is:	
Category 1 - Closed-loop recirculation systems where any excess liquid is captured via trough, drainage tile, or other similar conveyance system, rather than allowed to percolate into the ground.	Category 2 - Open irrigation systems where excess liquid is not captured. Warehouse production structures & freight container growing operations with no subterranean plumbing.
Step 2: Register with AWSA: Register each different location (address/land location) and select your category - example	
Category 1 Operation – Closed Loop Systems	Category 2 Operation – Open Systems
Step 3: Initial Communication from AWSA	
i. Upon successful registration, the website will display a confirmation . ii. You will receive an email confirmation . iii. Information package will be sent via email within 24 hours containing: 1. Introductory email 2. Welcome letter 3. Temporary certificate iv. Your auditor will contact you to plan your audit.	i. Upon successful registration, the website will display a confirmation . ii. You will receive an email confirmation .
Step 4: Certification pathway	Step 4: Declaration
Choose your level of certification : i. Basic Certification - 4 mandatory protocols focused on ensuring the integrity of the recirculation system. Minimum requirement. ii. Certificate of Excellence - 4 mandatory protocols, and a series of recommended health and safety protocols.	i. Click the “Registration link” in the email you received which will take you a website to complete your declaration . ii. Check the box agreeing to the terms of the declaration. iii. The website will display a confirmation
Step 5: Water assessment	Step 5: Documentation
Review the water assessment process and protocols and plan a course of action. The water assessment can be done before, during or after the rest of the certification.	You will receive your waiver via email. All of the above steps should happen instantaneously.
Step 6: Documentation	
Complete all protocols under your chosen certification pathway by June 30, 2024 in order to receive certification .	
Please contact AWSA if there are any issues with this process. General Email Inquiries , AWSA Manager	

Category 1

Step 2: Registration


Fill in company details and pick category.

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Standards Operations &
Management Environment

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Protected Agriculture Stewardship Registration

Given name:	<input type="text"/>
Surname:	<input type="text"/>
Company Title:	<input type="text"/>
Company Name:	<input type="text"/>
Email:	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number:	<input type="text"/>
Greenhouse Category:	<div><div>select a category</div><div></div></div> <div></div>
Greenhouse address:	
Address line 1:	<input type="text"/>
Address line 2:	<input type="text"/>
City:	<input type="text"/>
Province:	<div>select a province</div> <div></div>
Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>
Mailing address (if different):	
Mail Address line 1:	<input type="text"/>
Mail Address line 2:	<input type="text"/>
Mail City:	<input type="text"/>
Mail Province:	<div>select a province</div> <div></div>
Mail Postal Code:	<input type="text"/>
Prove you're not a robot:	<div><input type="checkbox"/> I'm not a robot</div> <div> reCAPTCHA Privacy - Terms</div>

All Protected Ag Operators using closed loop chemigation systems (i.e. recirculation system) are referred to as Category 1 PA Operators. Category 1 PA Operators must register in order to start the process. Once registered, materials will be mailed including a copy of the Standards and information about Auditors.

All Protected Ag Operator NOT using closed loop chemigation systems (i.e. recirculation system) are referred to as Category 2 PA Operators. Category 2 PA Operators must register to be added to the waiver distribution list.

NOTE: For Category 2 this registration page should be completed by a manager or someone with authority to complete the waiver.

Organizations that have multiple Category 1 PA locations that have any or all of the following are subject to an assessment:

- Have a closed looped chemigation system;
- have a defined storage area for pesticides;
- have a defined pesticide mixing/loading area for closed loop chemigation systems.

Each different location (address/land location) will be treated as a separate assessment and a separate certification number will be issued. Please register each location separately to ensure access to an Auditor.

Step 3: Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be displayed:



Thank you for registering. A confirmation email has been sent to you.

Email will be sent confirming registration.

Re: Protected Ag Registration Confirmation Category 1

NR

no-reply@awsa.ca

To  Justine Taylor



Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association

Protected Ag Registration Confirmation Category 1

Thank you for registering for the Protected Ag Stewardship Standards Program. A package will be mailed to you shortly.

Regards


Information package will be sent via email within 24 hours containing:

Introductory email

Protected Ag Stewardship Information Package

AM

AWSA Manager <manager@awsa.ca>

To  Justine Taylor

157243C.pdf

133 KB

157243L.pdf

124 KB

☺

↩ Reply

↩ Reply All

➡ Forward

⋮

Tue 1/23/2024 2:38 PM

ⓘ

If there are problems with how this message is displayed, click here to view it in a web browser.


Thank you for registering for the Protected Agricultural Stewardship Standards Program. The attached letter contains information about the program including the auditor that has been assigned to assist you with the process.

The attached letter references available resources on our website. These can be found at <https://awsa.ca/protected-agriculture-stewardship-standards/resources/>

Also attached, please find a temporary certificate. You will need to give this to your supplier of PCP products starting on January 1, 2024. This temporary certificate will expire on June 30, 2024. Once you complete your audit, a full certificate will be issued.

During your initial call with your auditor, additional information will be provided. In the interim you should review the [water assessment manual](#) and consider who you will work with to complete the assessment.

Regards



Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association

Anthony Laycock

AWSA Manager


T 416.968.9424 | F 416.968.6818

manager@awsa.ca | www.awsa.ca

189 Queen St E., Suite 1, Toronto, ON M5A 1S2

Welcome letter:

The welcome letter contains your certificate #, your auditor's contacts details and a description of available [resources](#).

	Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association AWSA, 189 Queen Street East, Suite 1, Toronto, ON M5A 1S2 TOLL FREE: 1-877-236-2972 • TEL: (416) 968-9424 • FAX: (416) 968-0818 www.awsa.ca • manager@awsa.ca
January 23, 2024	T157243
Justine Taylor Greenhouse XYZ 456 Bank St Ottawa ON N3R 2T6	
Re: Registration – Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards	
Thank you for registering for the Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards (PAS). Your registration confirms you have a closed loop irrigation/chemigation system at your operation.	
Attached please find a temporary PAS certificate. You will need to give this to your supplier of PCP products starting on January 1, 2024. Distributors and retailers of crop protection products will be required to verify an operator's certification status prior to selling/shipping any PCP products labelled for greenhouse use.	
This temporary certificate will expire on June 30, 2024. To continue to access PCP products labelled for greenhouse use you will need to successfully complete an audit before the temporary certificate expires. Successful completion of an audit will result in a full certificate being issued which will allow for continued access to PCP products labelled for greenhouse use.	
AUDITOR INFORMATION	
To become certified a third-party audit is required by an AWSA Auditor. You will be contacted soon to start the process. Your Auditor is:	
Cheryl Garniss 519 357-2907 Cheryl@garnissfarms.com	
During your initial call with the Auditor, they will review the program and the paths to certification. Two options for certification are available.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PA Certification: For PA Certification, Section C of the Standards must be completed and verified by your assigned auditor.• Certificate of Excellence (COE): Operators can also be issued a Certificate of Excellence which demonstrates a commitment to workplace excellence. To achieve COE status, in addition to section C, operators must be audited for compliance with Sections A (Pesticide Handling, Storage & Training), B (Pesticide Application), D (Site Management) and E (Emergency Response).	

Either certification will make your operation eligible to access greenhouse labeled pest control products in 2024.

RESOURCES

Resources are available to assist with the certification process. These are posted on www.awsa.ca. Please select Protected Ag Standards and click on resources. These materials will be updated regularly so please visit the website often. Following is a list of currently available resources:

Protected Agricultural Stewardship Standards: This document lists the individual protocols required for certification.

Compliance Assistance Manual: The Compliance Assistance Manual is an electronic document which provides more information on the protocols. This document also includes samples and templates to assist operators in complying with the individual protocols. The samples and templates if used require detailed review and editing to ensure that the final documents reflect your site's actual activities.

Sample Emergency Response Plan: Protocol E1 of the Standards requires operators to develop and maintain an emergency response plan. The link below includes a sample ER plan. The sample ER plan if used requires detailed review and editing to ensure that the final ER Plan reflects your site's actual activities.

Equivalency Table: This table is to assist Protected Ag Operators is assessing equivalency with various third party audited programs.

WATER MANAGEMENT ASSESSMENT

Protocol C1 requires operations to complete a water-management assessment every six years. This assessment is a key element to the Standards and its purpose is to demonstrate the closed loop chemigation system is closed. A Water Assessment Manual is available under the Protected Ag resource section of the AWSA website.

The Water Assessment process should start as soon as possible. A completed water assessment report is required before certification can be completed. All other protocol requirements can be assessed before, during or after the water assessment is completed. Please note that the Pest Management Regulator Agency requires all greenhouses using closed loop irrigation systems with imidacloprid (and its associated end-use product) must have completed the water assessment before May 19, 2023.

For further information about the Protected Ag Standards please speak with your auditor or contact manager@awsa.ca

Sincerely
AWSA Manager

Temporary certificate

Your temporary certificate can be used to facilitate the sale of products.



AWSA
Agrichemical Warehousing
Standards Association

*Protected Agricultural Stewardship Standards
Certificate of Registration*

This certificate confirms: Greenhouse XYZ

for its operation located at 456 Bank St., Ottawa, ON, N3R 2T6

has registered for the Protect Agricultural Stewardship Standards as a category 1 operation. This temporary certificate expires on June 30, 2024.

Note: Effective January 1, 2024, in accordance with Protocol E16, AWSA retailer to verify protected agriculture growers with either a Protected Agriculture Certificate or a Declaration of Category 2 Protected Ag Operation Waiver prior, to shipping PCP products labelled for greenhouse use. This certificate expires on June 30, 2024. After June 30, 2024, AWSA retailer to verify protected agriculture growers with either a FULL Protected Agriculture Certificate or a Declaration of Category 2 Protected Ag Operation Waiver. Reference AWSA Bulletin 35.

T157243
Certificate #



Program Manager

Step 4: Certification Pathway

Operators should choose which level of certification they wish to pursue:

Basic Certification: Completion of four mandatory protocols (Section C) focused on ensuring the integrity of the recirculation system, required for certification under the program. The protocols provide assurances to prevent unintended loss of product to the environment, in alignment with current label requirements. The four protocols are listed below and full details can be found in the abbreviated [Basic Standard manual](#).

- [C1. Water Management Assessment](#) (Physical Test)
- C2. Chemigation System Monitoring (Documentation)
- C3. Chemigation System Maintenance (Documentation)
- C4. Spill Response Plan (Documentation)

Certificate of Excellence: Completion of a series of health and safety protocols in addition to the four mandatory protocols highlighted above. These additional protocols represent industry best practices and, in some instances, are legal requirements. We encourage all growers to review these additional protocols and consider participating in the COE component as a demonstration of your commitment to workplace and environmental stewardship excellence. The additional protocols are listed below and full details can be found in the [Protected Agricultural Stewardship Standards manual](#):

A: PESTICIDE HANDLING, STORAGE & TRAINING

- A1. Pesticide Flow Chart
- A2. Signage
- A3. Emergency Equipment
- A4. Employee Training
- A5. Storage
- A6. Pesticide Containers
- A7. Safety Data Sheets
- A8. Storage Area
- A9. Mixing/Loading Area(s) for Drench Application
- A10. Mixing/Loading Area(s) for Foliar Application

B: PESTICIDE APPLICATION

- B1. Pesticide Application Documentation
- B2. Provincial Certification
- B3. Personal Protection Equipment
- B4. Safe Operating Procedures

D: SITE MANAGEMENT

- D1. Emergency Equipment Maintenance
- D2. Handling Procedures for Hazardous Waste
- D3. Accident & Incident Procedures

E: EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- E1. Emergency Response Plan
- E2. Emergency Drills

Additional resources for any of the protocols can be found in the [Compliance Assistance Manual](#).

Templates for many of the protocols can be found here: [Basic templates](#) and [COE templates](#).

Step 5: Water Assessment

Plan your water assessment. The water assessment is a physical validation of your recirculation that ensures it is sealed. There are several factors to consider when planning your assessment:

1. Will you do the assessment yourself with the attestation of a neutral third-party, or will you contract a [qualified person](#)?
2. If you do the test yourself, the neutral third party must [attest](#) to the process.

3. What method works best for your facility? A number of options are protocol in the [C1 protocol manual](#) for consideration. You can use one or more of these methods to test your system or propose a new methodology.

Document the process and findings from your assessment. These should be presented with the [Operator Information Summary](#) and [Infrastructure Summary](#) as part of your report.

Templates for the water assessment process can be found [here](#).

Step 6: Documentation

Upon completion of all the protocols under your chosen certification pathway, you will receive your permanent Certificate of Compliance.


SAMPLE FULL CERTIFICATE

Certificate of Compliance			
In accordance with the terms of your application, this certificate confirms that			
123 Greenhouses Limited			
for its operation located at 771 Concession 9 Newtown ON N0N 1N0			
has met, at the date of this certificate, the requirements of the AWSA Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards, based on the results of an independent audit conducted in respect to the above facility.			
<u>September 25th 2023</u>	<u>December 31st 2025</u>	 Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association	 Protected Agriculture
Effective Date	Expiry Date		
<u>September 25th 2023</u>			
Date	Chairman		
No. A456789			

Category 2

Step 2: Registration

Fill in company details and pick category.

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Protected Agriculture Stewardship Registration

Given name:

Surname:

Company Title:

Company Name:

Email:

Telephone Number:

Greenhouse Category: ⓘ

Greenhouse address:

Address line 1:

Address line 2:

City:

Province:

Postal Code:

Mailing address (if different):


Mail Address line 1:

Mail Address line 2:

Mail City:

Mail Province:

Mail Postal Code:

Prove you're not a robot: ☐ I'm not a robot 
reCAPTCHA
Privacy - Terms

All Protected Ag Operators using closed loop chemigation systems (i.e. recirculation system) are referred to as Category 1 PA Operators. Category 1 PA Operators must register in order to start the process. Once registered, materials will be mailed including a copy of the Standards and information about Auditors.

All Protected Ag Operator NOT using closed loop chemigation systems (i.e. recirculation system) are referred to as Category 2 PA Operators. Category 2 PA Operators must register to be added to the waiver distribution list.

NOTE: For Category 2 this registration page should be completed by a manager or someone with authority to complete the waiver.

Organizations that have multiple Category 1 PA locations that have any or all of the following are subject to an assessment:

- Have a closed looped chemigation system;
- have a defined storage area for pesticides;
- have a defined pesticide mixing/loading area for closed loop chemigation systems.

Each different location (address/land location) will be treated as a separate assessment and a separate certification number will be issued. Please register each location separately to ensure access to an Auditor.

Step 3: Confirmation

Confirmation of registration will be displayed:

Next Steps

An email has been sent to the email address you provided, with a link to complete your registration and download your waiver.

If you cannot find the email please check your spam filter, or email manager@awsa.ca

Email will be sent confirming registration. Click the registration link to continue.

AWSA Protected Ag Operation registration

NR

no-reply@awsa.ca

To Justine Taylor

AWSA

Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Association

AWSA - Category 2 Protected Ag Operation registration

Hi, your Category 2 Protected Ag Operation registration has been received.

Click on the link below to complete your registration and receive your waiver.

Registration Link

Step 4: Declaration

You will be directed to a website to complete the declaration.

AWSA

OME

Agrichemical Warehousing Standards Operations & Management Environment

Home

Declaration of Category 2 Protected Agricultural Operation

Given name:

Justine

Surname:

Taylor

Company Title:

Greenhouse ABC

Company Name:

Greenhouse ABC

Physical address of greenhouse - line 1:

123 Bank st

Physical address of greenhouse - line 2:

City:

Ottawa

Province:

ON

Postal Code:

N9Y 2e5

Telephone Number:

123-456-7890

Email:

taylorj@croplife.ca

By completing this declaration, you confirm the following statements are true:

1. I confirm that I understand that effective January 1, 2024 a waiver must be provided by our operation to all suppliers of greenhouse-labelled PCP-registered products.

2. I acknowledge that I have read the definitions for Category 1 and Category 2 Protected Ag Operations and that our operation falls into Category 2.

3. I agree to notify the AWSA in advance of any changes in use, scope or operation that changes the category for our operation.

☐ I understand and agree to the terms of this Declaration.

Submit

You will receive website confirmation:



Your registration has been completed successfully, and your waiver has been emailed to you.

Step 5: Documentation

You will receive your waiver via email.



Agrichemical Warehousing
Standards Association

Protected Agriculture Stewardship Standards

Declaration of Category 2 Protected Agricultural Operation

Taylor, Justine
Greenhouse ABC
Greenhouse ABC
123 Bank st Ottawa ON N9Y 2e5

Has confirmed the following statements are true:

1. I confirm that I understand that effective January 1, 2024 a waiver must be provided by our operation to all suppliers of greenhouse-labelled PCP-registered products.
2. I acknowledge that I have read the definitions for Category 1 and Category 2 Protected Ag Operations and that our operation falls into Category 2.
3. I agree to notify the AWSA in advance of any changes in use, scope or operation that changes the category for our operation.

Date Completed: January 23 2024

Definitions:

Protected Ag: Protected Agriculture (PA) refers to crops that are grown under structures such as: greenhouses, shade houses, hoop houses, high tunnels, warehouses etc...

Category 1 Protected Ag Operation: All PA operations, of any crop, using closed-loop chemigation systems. A closed system is one where any excess chemigation liquid delivered to the crop is captured via trough, drainage tile, or other similar conveyance system, rather than allowed to percolate into the ground. Warehouse production structures are excluded from Category 1.

Category 2 Protected Ag Operation: All PA operations, of any crop, using open chemigation systems where excess chemigation liquid is not captured. Warehouse production structures are included in Category 2 regardless of the status of the chemigation system.

Ag-Retailer Shipping/Receiving Requirements:

- Effective January 1, 2024 all ag-retailers will be required to verify all Category 1 Operators' Protected Ag certification number prior to shipping/selling greenhouse-labelled PCP-registered products.
- Effective January 1, 2024 all ag-retailers will be required to have this waiver on file for all Category 2 Protected Ag Operators prior to shipping/selling greenhouse-labelled PCP-registered products.