



October 14, 2010

To: Minnesota Anhydrous Ammonia Equipment & Storage Facilities

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Subject: MDA's Anhydrous Ammonia Service Status Policy

In 2007, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), in cooperation with industry, developed an Anhydrous Ammonia (NH₃) Service Status Policy ("Policy"). This Policy provides desired industry compliance flexibility without undermining MDA's regulatory and safety requirements. For whatever unknown reason, MDA inspections of equipment and storage facilities since 2007 have shown that the Policy has been seldom used.

While use of the Policy is not mandatory, it does provide clear benefits. These benefits are:

- Equipment tagged as **"out-of-service"** are subject to limited inspection provided they meet all conditions of the Policy.
- Equipment and storage facilities identified as **"zero product/pressure"** are generally not subject to inspection provided they meet all conditions of the Policy.
- The Policy is recognized and honored by other NH₃ enforcement agencies including the state and federal transportation departments and the Minnesota State Patrol.
- The Policy establishes reasonable expectations of equipment and storage facilities, with an objective of preventing the use of non-compliant equipment and storage facilities, while at the same time not subjecting the equipment and facilities to full inspection and enforcement.

We strongly encourage all Minnesota NH₃ equipment and storage facility owners and operators to adopt the use of the Policy.

You can obtain a copy of the Policy at:

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/en/chemicals/fertilizers/nh3/nh3servicestatus.aspx>

If you have questions, please contact us.