



October 8, 2009

To: Anhydrous Ammonia Equipment Owners & Operators

Subject: Combined Anhydrous Ammonia Inspection Checklist & Driver's Vehicle Inspection Report

Several of Minnesota's agricultural organizations requested that the state agencies regulating anhydrous ammonia develop a single reference for the regulations. We thought this was a very good idea and now we have completed the task. Staff of the Minnesota Departments of Agriculture, Transportation, and the Minnesota State Patrol combined efforts to develop an NH3 equipment inspection checklist and Driver's Vehicle Inspection Report (DVIR).

The inspection checklist and DVIR combined the regulations relating to NH3 equipment administered by the three agencies. The inspection checklist and DVIR are meant to be used as tools by owners and operators as a means to improve the compliance with regulations and, most importantly, enhance the safety of NH3 equipment.

The idea of the combined inspection checklist and DVIR originated from meetings attended by the three agencies mentioned and the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers, Cooperative Network, Minnesota Grain & Feed Association, Farm Bureau, Farmers Union, and insurance carriers. The three agencies reported to the group of the widespread non-compliance found during recent NH3 equipment inspections. All three agencies expressed their serious concerns regarding the level of non-compliance and the compromises to safety. One of the outcomes to address this matter was the development of the combined inspection checklist and DVIR.

The inspection checklist and DVIR will be accessible on all three agency internet (web) sites. The three agency web sites will also include information that will lend support to the compliance items listed on the inspection checklist. Please feel free to use the following internet (web) resources:

MDA NH3 Program Web Page Address: http://www.mda.state.mn.us/chemicals/fertilizers/nh3.htm
MN DOT Fact Sheets Web Page Address: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/cvo/facts.html
Contacts Options to the MN DOT's: Email: motorcarrier@dot.state.mn.us , Telephone: Metro Line: 651-215-6330 - the direct number to the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations, OR Toll Free 1-800-657-3774 – ask to be transferred to the Office of Freight and Commercial Vehicle Operations.
MN State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Web Page: http://www.dps.state.mn.us/patrol/comveh/index.htm
Information Line for the Minnesota State Patrol Commercial Vehicle Enforcement: (651) 405-6171
MN Statutes, Chapter 169. Traffic Regulations Web Page: https://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/?id=169
Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Title 49 Web Page: http://www.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/cfrassemble.cgi?title=200349
US DOT Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Web Page: http://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/
US DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration – Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Web Page: http://www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat

The MDA, MN/DOT, and MN State Patrol hope the combined inspection checklist and DVIR will be widely used by all owners/operators to ensure the compliance and safety of NH3 equipment. Please do your very best to be in compliance and operate your equipment safely.

Sincerely,

Greg Buzicky, Director
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