



## GAPC Certification Tips

Our weekly email containing tips, advice and reminders that will help you achieve GAPC Certification in 2019.

### This week: Worker Training Requirements and Agrochemical Storage



#### 1. Worker Training Requirements: What training do my workers need?

Auditors will be looking for documentation that includes topics, source of materials, and signatures of the workers for each required topic (listed below and also found in the Training section of the [GAPC Certification Labor Standards](#)). They will also be asking during worker interviews what topics the workers received training on from the grower or other source.

##### **Critical Standards for All Certifications** *(Certification requires 100% of Criticals)*

Grower documents training to farm workers on the hazards and risks associated with agrochemicals, safe working practices, emergency response and health surveillance including:

- Heat Stress
- Farm Safety, including Farm Equipment Safety
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Prevention (if applicable)
- Pesticide Safety and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Green Tobacco Sickness (GTS)
- Emergency response procedures
- Recognition of REI
- Storage, handling, application, and disposal of agrochemicals
- NTRM Prevention

Grower follows all requirements of state and national regulations and training requirements related to worker protection and agrochemical use.

##### **Additional Standards High Risk** *(Certification requires 75% of Additional)*

Grower documents training to farm workers on:

- Proper baling and market separation of tobacco
- For air-cured and fire-cured operations only, grade separation

#### We have several options to make training and documenting easy for growers!

- Use our [record templates](#) to document all of the required training
- Use our inspection sheets including the NTRM inspection sheet and Barn Safety inspection sheet included in our [record packets](#) for training purposes
- Purchase the Safety DVD's or Tailgate Kits from the [GAPC Store](#)
- Download for free the [Worker Training Guides](#) from our website (also available in our [GAPC Store](#))
- Attend one of the Farm Safety Events (if located near you) and receive the required and needed training documentation at the event ([see the 2019 Farm Safety Locations](#))

#### 2. Agrochemical Storage: What is required? What will the auditors look for?

Below is a list of Standards that pertain to agrochemical storage, also found in the Agrochemical Management section of the [GAPC Certification Compliance Guide](#).

##### **Critical Standards for All Certifications** *(100% Compliance Required)*

- Maintain printed hard copies of SDS sheets for all pesticides used in tobacco production.
- Maintain copies of labels for all agrochemicals currently being used in tobacco production either on the container in storage, or in farm files. Does not include agrochemicals that are no longer in use on the farm.
- Have a designated, lockable, dry (weather protected) pesticide storage area with proper signage.
- Ensure that agrochemicals are stored in original manufacturer's containers with labels attached or on file in pesticide storage room. (All agrochemicals should be stored at time of audit/site visit unless they are actively in use on the farm.)
- Dispose of agrochemical containers legally
- Properly segregate, store, recycle, or dispose of hazardous waste including but not limited to residual CPAs, fuel, oil, grease, paint and batteries.

1. **Storage area** - The key requirement here is that the storage area protects stored agrochemicals from rain and from runoff or ponding of water from outside the structure, and that the area be securable such that unauthorized persons cannot easily enter. Auditors will be looking for an enclosed walled structure with a roof and lockable entrance.
2. **Signage**- Auditors will be looking for clearly visible signs indicating presence of pesticides near the entrance.
3. **Hazardous waste storage** - Auditors will be looking for these materials to be stored in dry, securable places.
4. **Containers with labels attached**- Agrochemicals should always be stored in their original containers, with clear labeling of their contents on the container. If the original label is missing, write the name of the pesticide, the active ingredient, the formulation, and the EPA registration number on the container.

##### **Additional Standards Medium Risk** *(75% of additional required)*

- Agrochemical storage with impermeable floor and designed to retain runoff. This includes tubs, bins, containers with impermeable flooring that can hold more than the volume of agrochemical being stored.
  - Impermeable floor - typically this will be concrete, but other impermeable materials such as plastic underlayers or plastic tubs are acceptable, as long as they are placed in a way that the contents of a ruptured container will be retained. Lack of an impermeable floor in the pesticide storage area will not by itself prevent certification.
- Mix or transfer CPAs in containment areas away from runoff channels.
- Ensure that greenhouse float water is properly and legally disposed of.

##### **Additional Standards Low Risk** *(75% of additional required)*

- Maintain an inventory of pesticide stocks in storage
- Have a designated, fenced or otherwise lockable storage area for empty agrochemical containers that have not been triple rinsed and punched pending disposal.
- Properly dispose of non-hazardous waste products. Example: move waste paper, cardboard or plastic to a trash receptacle or recycle container.

#### In future emails...

- Housing and Transportation
- OSHA 300 forms
- What is remediation?
- Anti-discrimination Policy
- Appeals Process
- Audit Results

Past Certification weekly tips are posted online for easy access at

<https://www.gapconnections.com/services/certification-program>

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