



Check your email each week for helpful tips on achieving GAPC Certification.

THIS WEEK:

Worker Training Requirements, Safety Equipment, and Emergency Planning

Keeping your farmworkers safe!

1. Worker Training Requirements

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). If worker interviews are required for your operation, the auditor will ask questions during worker interviews to verify workers been trained.

Critical Standards:

- 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 CPAs
- NTRM prevention

Additional Standards

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

GAP Connections has several resources to make training and documentation easy for growers!

1. Use [GAPC record templates](#) to document all required training
2. Purchase Safety DVD or Tailgate Training Kits from the [GAPC Store](#)
3. Watch safety training videos on [Youtube](#)
4. Download for free the [Worker Training Guides](#) from our website (also available in the GAPC Store)
5. Schedule a customized [On-Farm Farmworker Training](#) session with GAPC

2. Safety Equipment

Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be evaluated based on availability and tasks performed by workers. For example, if workers are not mixing, handling, or spraying crop protectants, the workers would not be required to have the CPA PPE.

At time of audit, auditors will visually inspect and verify in worker interviews that proper safety equipment is being supplied.

Critical Standards:

- Use label required PPE by applicators/handlers/early entry workers
- Gloves and water-resistant clothing for workers working with wet tobacco
- Chemical resistant gloves for anyone handling or applying CPA's
- Chemical resistant aprons for anyone mixing or loading CPA's
- Chemical resistant footwear for anyone mixing or loading CPA's
- Safety glasses for workers applying or handling CPA's or performing jobs which can create flying objects that damage eyes such as grinding, sawing, driving nails, etc.
- Hearing protection equipment for workers operating machinery or power tools
- Dust masks for workers handling cured tobacco or operating machinery or power tools under dusty conditions

Additional Standards:

- Have adequately maintained farm vehicles, machinery, and tools with the originally installed guards, shields or other protections as per manual/guidance provided by manufacturer or dealer of equipment
- Have adequate first aid equipment for the number of workers for the tobacco operation
 - First aid kit present and available at edge of field when workers are working in the field
 - First aid present and available within the facility or in a vehicle within 200 feet of the facility in case of curing barns, greenhouses, market preparation areas, machinery sheds, etc. whenever workers are performing work tasks there
 - First aid kit available in vehicles used to transport workers on the farm
- Have fire extinguishers available within 200 feet of curing barns when workers are present

2. Emergency and Disaster Planning

If you currently do not have a written emergency plan you can use the [GAPC record templates](#) to create a written emergency plan. The factsheet will walk growers through the steps of creating an emergency plan and the templates are provided for [important numbers](#), a [farm roster](#) and emergency plans for medical, fire, and weather related emergencies. Use of GAPC templates is not required as other formats are acceptable.

Critical Standards:

- Do you have a dedicated emergency contact person for all workers?
- Do you provide your workers with access to emergency medical services (EMS)?
- Do you have a written emergency plan for your workers in case of medical emergencies, fires, or weather events?

Additional Standard:

- Do you have anyone on your farm that is certified in first aid/CPR/AED training?

[GAPC Certification Compliance Guide](#)

**Have questions while preparing for your monitoring visit?
Call the GAPC Office at 865.622.4606.**

**GAPC Staff are available Monday - Friday 8am to 5pm EST
Please leave a message if we are not available - only calls with messages will be returned.**

Farmworker Training

On-Farm Worker Training

GAPC offers on-farm training for individual farms and their workforce or for a group of farms and their collective workforce. Training is customized to the operation and is offered in both English and Spanish. Training topics are numerous and varied to offer a full and complete package for operations that may be looking for safety and compliance training to meet different requirements. [Learn More.](#)



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