



CANADIAN FERTILIZER INSTITUTE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ottawa, March 19, 2008 – Canada’s fertilizer industry supports new federal Regulations to add nine substances, including several fertilizers, to the restricted components list. The Regulations were announced today by Natural Resources Canada.

The Canadian Fertilizer Institute has worked in close co-operation with the Explosives Branch of Natural Resources Canada on the development of the new Regulations while, at the same time, implementing an industry Code of Practice for the safe storage and handling of ammonium nitrate.

“We encourage everyone involved in the agriculture industry to be in full compliance well before the Regulations start coming into effect on June 1, 2008,” said CFI President Roger Larson. “Security is everyone’s business. Fertilizer companies have been essentially in compliance for a number of years under the voluntary Code of Practice. These Regulations will strengthen our Code and are consistent with security measures in other countries.”

The Regulations add four materials used as fertilizers, or in the making of fertilizers, to the restricted components list: ammonium nitrate, nitric acid, potassium nitrate and sodium nitrate. Ammonium nitrate is the only one of these four that is commonly used as a fertilizer in Canada and is the most significant part of the Regulations.

Nitrogen fertilizer products such as ammonium nitrate promote vigorous plant growth and deliver crop yields that help keep farmers in business. Ammonium nitrate is safe when properly handled by suppliers and farmers. However, it is one of the many products that can be used as an ingredient for making illegal explosives. The fertilizer industry, Natural Resources Canada and the RCMP implemented a Code of Practice for the secure storage, transportation and sale of ammonium nitrate more than two years ago.

CFI and agri-retailers have distributed thousands of copies of a brochure and poster to educate stakeholders on secure storage, transportation and sale of ammonium nitrate as part of the “On Guard for Canada” program. The program urges everyone who handles ammonium nitrate to implement security plans, maintain records of all sales of ammonium nitrate and alert law enforcement officials of suspicious activity by using a toll-free RCMP hotline: 1-800-387-0020.

“Care needs to be taken to keep ammonium nitrate in the right hands,” said Dave Finlayson, Executive Director of the Fertilizer Safety and Security Council. “Retailers know their customers, local soil conditions and the products needed for farming in their area. This knowledge can be put to use when selling ammonium nitrate, which is particularly important to farmers in Eastern Canada. Retailers are keeping records on ammonium nitrate sales to protect the public.”

For more information, or to download a copy of the AN brochure “On Guard for Canada,” visit the Fertilizer Safety and Security Council’s website at www.fssc.ca

The Canadian Fertilizer Institute is an industry association representing manufacturers, wholesale and retail distributors of nitrogen, phosphate, potash and sulphur fertilizers. Our mission is to be the unified voice of the Canadian fertilizer industry by promoting the responsible, sustainable and safe production, distribution and use of fertilizers. Our industry employs 12,000 Canadians and contributes \$7 billion annually to Canada’s economy. Our products contribute to the supply of safe, nutritious food in Canada and around the world.