



Fertilizer Safety & Security Council

Conseil de la sécurité en fertilisation

AMMONIA CODE OF PRACTICE

BULLETIN # 1
FEBRUARY 2009

SECURITY REQUIREMENTS

The Ammonia Code of Practice outlines important security requirements that agri-retailers are required to meet. Retail facilities must ensure that access to ammonia is controlled at all times to deter theft and vandalism. As outlined in Section A4.1 of the Ammonia Code of Practice, there are three acceptable ways to meet the security requirements.

- 1) **Fencing** with a 6 foot chain link fence topped by three strands of barbed wire is considered a best practice. While barbed wire is not mandatory, any fencing must be a minimum of six feet high. Page wire fencing must be topped with three strands of barbed wire to be compliant. Note that if fencing is used, there are emergency egress requirements.
- 2) **Valve and tank securement** is another option. It involves the locking of all valves and fittings which could provide access to ammonia, in addition to securing any portable tanks, such as using chains to lock nurse tanks to an immovable object. Valves are typically locked with chains or with special-purpose valve handle locks.
- 3) **Other physical means of security** such as professional security services with authorized and trained personnel to watch over the site is another acceptable way to comply. Agri-retailers can also have mobile equipment immobilized (e.g. secured with chain or steel cable to an immovable object) plus brightly coloured cable ties on all valves to indicate tampering. Cable ties must be installed such that operating the valve would break the cable tie. Another acceptable system could be to have mobile equipment immobilized plus a security system with the following minimum elements: intrusion detection system (e.g. motion detector, detector strip in driveway) and camera actuated by the detection system. Ammonia equipment must be in the camera's field of view. Other means of security can be used as long as the approach both provides a physical means of preventing or deterring unauthorized access to anhydrous ammonia and is in place for all vessels at the storage operation.