



## **Agribusiness Security Working Group**

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**Contact: Stacy Mayuga  
(202) 457-0825, ext. 18  
stacy@aradc.org**

### **DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FORMALLY APPROVES ASMARK INSTITUTE'S SECURITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT TOOL**

Washington, D.C. – The Agribusiness Security Working Group, comprised of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), CropLife America (CLA) and The Fertilizer Institute (TFI), applauds the Department of Homeland Security's formal approval of the Asmark Institute's Security Vulnerability Assessment tool for use by ag retailers.

"Ag retailers are aware of the ramifications for not properly addressing security measures at their chemical facilities," said Jack Eberspacher, ARA president and CEO. "The Asmark Institute's SVA tool is an invaluable resource that will ease and simplify the fulfillment of DHS' Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards."

Development of the Asmark Institute's SVA tool was initiated four years ago as a voluntary program to meet federal security regulations, such as DHS' Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards. Asmark's SVA meets the Center for Chemical Process Safety security vulnerability assessment design criteria, which is recognized as an acceptable methodology by DHS. Under the regulations, all chemical facilities considered "high risk" are placed in one of four risk-based tiers. Tiers will range from Tier 1, which contains the highest-risk covered facilities, to Tier 4, which contains the lowest-risk covered facilities. Retailers designated as Tier 4 facilities that utilizes the Asmark SVA program to assess chemical facility security can do so with confidence that their assessment meets DHS security regulations and is based on sound risk assessment principles. Retailers who complete the plan will receive a security assessment, along with a list of recommended security measures.

"DHS' approval of the Asmark Institute's SVA tool is indicative of the good work undertaken by those ag retailers who voluntarily stepped-up to proactively implement security measures at their facilities," said

Allen Summers, president, of Asmark Institute. “This has been a four-year work in progress, and the return on investment is paramount.”

The Asmark SVA tool is available through the following state agribusiness associations:

California Plant Health Association, [www.calhealthplans.com](http://www.calhealthplans.com)

Florida Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, [www.ffaa.org](http://www.ffaa.org)

Georgia Agribusiness Council, [www.ga-agribusiness.org](http://www.ga-agribusiness.org)

Agribusiness Association of Iowa, [www.agribiz.org](http://www.agribiz.org)

Illinois Fertilizer & Chemical Association, [www.ifca.com](http://www.ifca.com)

Agribusiness Council of Indiana, [www.inagribiz.org](http://www.inagribiz.org)

Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association, <http://kara.harvestmanager.net/mx/hm.asp?id=home>

AgriBusiness Association of Kentucky, [www.kyagbusiness.org](http://www.kyagbusiness.org)

Michigan Agribusiness Association, <http://miagbiz.org>

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers Association, [www.mcpr-cca.org/](http://www.mcpr-cca.org/)

Missouri Agribusiness Association, [www.mo-ag.com](http://www.mo-ag.com)

Montana Agricultural Business Association, [www.mtagbiz.org](http://www.mtagbiz.org)

New York State Agribusiness Association, [www.nercrd.psu.edu/Links/newyork.html](http://www.nercrd.psu.edu/Links/newyork.html)

Nebraska Agri-Business Association, [www.na-ba.com](http://www.na-ba.com)

Ohio Agribusiness Association, [www.oaba.net](http://www.oaba.net)

Oklahoma Agribusiness Retailers, [www.okagassn.org](http://www.okagassn.org)

South Carolina Fertilizer & Agrichemical Association, [www.scfaa.org](http://www.scfaa.org)

South Dakota Agri-Business Association, [www.sdaba.org](http://www.sdaba.org)

Far West Agribusiness Association, [www.fwaa.org](http://www.fwaa.org)

Wisconsin Crop Production Association, [www.wicrops.org](http://www.wicrops.org)

For additional information on Asmark’s SVA program, visit ARA’s Web site at

[www.aradc.org/PREFERREDVENDORS/SVA/tabid/143/Default.aspx](http://www.aradc.org/PREFERREDVENDORS/SVA/tabid/143/Default.aspx). If you have questions, please contact Richard Gupton, vice president of legislative policy and counsel, at (202) 457-0825, ext. 16. Or, send an e-mail to [richard@aradc.org](mailto:richard@aradc.org).

***The Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA)*** is a national trade organization providing a national voice for the retail sector of the agricultural industry. With offices in Washington, D.C., the ARA is focused on issues and programs that affect the profitability and professionalism of ARA members.

Established in 1933, ***CropLife America*** represents the developers, manufacturers, formulators and distributors of plant science solutions for agriculture and pest management in the United States. CropLife America member companies produce, sell and distribute virtually all the crop protection and biotechnology products used by American farmers.

***The Fertilizer Institute (TFI)*** represents the nation's fertilizer industry. Producers, retailers, trading firms and equipment manufacturers which comprise its membership are served by a full time Washington, D.C., staff in various legislative, educational and technical areas as well as with information and public relations programs.