



The Fertilizer Institute

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Environmental Protection Agency Supports *myRMP*

EPA Recommends All Retailers Use TFI, Asmark Institute Guidance Document

Washington, D.C. – The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today notified The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) of its support for the Web-based *myRMP* program, developed cooperatively by TFI and the Asmark Institute designed to assist agricultural retailers conduct required updates to risk management plans. EPA is recommending that retailers nationwide use *myRMP*. The program was launched Aug. 13 and is available for use by retailers across the country.

“TFI has been a leader in retail RMP compliance assistance since EPA announced its rule and we published a retail guidance document in 1998,” said TFI President Ford B. West. “We’ve had a nine year track record on work on this rule and are pleased that EPA has recognized our industry’s work. The guidance will work to provide for more uniformity and consistency across the different regions of EPA.”

MyRMP was developed and launched in a Web-based format in the spring of 2006 with a special emphasis on education and personalizing the experience and materials to a specific facility. The program came as a result of EPA’s rule regarding the accident prevention provisions on the Clean Air Act of 1996, which requires facilities that handle anhydrous and aqua ammonia in threshold quantities to prepare a risk management plan (RMP). This plan consists of three major components: a hazard assessment, a prevention program and an emergency response program in the event of a “worst case scenario” release of either product.

“This new version of *myRMP* is very user-friendly and literally puts everything a retailer needs to effectively implement a RMP accident prevention program at their fingertips, all in one convenient suite,” said Asmark Institute President Allen Summers. “New technology was

applied to further enhance several aspects of the new guidance tool, including the ability to personalize materials such as the written operating procedures.”

The requirement to first submit a RMP was June 21, 1999. A complete review and update is required every five years or whenever certain changes in the facility operation occur. The next five-year update will occur in June 2009, at which time it is expected that practically every retailer in the United States will access the new *myRMP* guidance for assistance with EPA’s requirements. There are approximately 14,000 RMP facilities in the United States, of which roughly 3,500 are considered to be agricultural retailers.

“TFI’s *myRMP* materials provide practical advice, insights and guidelines for clearer understanding of the Risk Management Program and its implementation, particularly as applied to facilities in the retail ammonia fertilizer industry,” wrote EPA Director of the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) Deborah Dietrich. “OEM believes that these materials outline an approach to compliance that will be very helpful to many fertilizer facilities covered by the Risk Management Program.”

EPA awarded the Asmark Institute a grant for its use of technology and work in developing *myRMP* and making it available to retailers nationwide.

MyRMP can be accessed via TFI’s Web site at www.tfi.org and EPA’s Web site in the coming days.

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The Fertilizer Institute 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.