

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Security Vulnerability Assessment Version 2.0 Released

Owensboro, Kentucky - The Agricultural Retailers Association joins the Asmark Institute in announcing the Asmark Institute Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) Version 2.0 has been launched publicly for use nationwide by the agricultural industry. The SVA is a web-based tool developed specifically for retail agricultural facilities to identify and assess potential security threats, risks and vulnerabilities. Since 2001, given the heightened awareness of terrorism, hardening security at agricultural facilities continues to be a priority. "Completing the SVA continues to be beneficial because of the proactive thought process it provokes" said Amber Duke, Vice President of the Asmark Institute.

The original SVA was first published in 2003 and has served our industry well with more than 8,400 of the assessments having been completed. Building on what has been learned over the past ten years and drawing on the experience and expertise of more than 70 industry professionals, the new SVA has been expanded to provide more emphasis on DOT issues and additional layers of security that have been developed over the past decade. Retailers who complete the assessment will receive a list of recommended countermeasures to help offset their vulnerabilities, along with site-specific information required in preparing their DOT Security Plan. The countermeasures can be used to further hone security at the facility and for the transportation of hazardous materials.

Central to the Asmark Institute SVA methodology is the utilization of layers of protection, which are programmed into the model. This methodology has been determined to meet the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) security vulnerability assessment design criteria.

The license for the SVA has been renewed with ARA, who in turn will jointly promote it with its partners through the Agribusiness Security Working Group, comprised of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) and CropLife America (CLA). Contact your participating state agribusiness association for more information or to register for the new security vulnerability assessment.

### **Asmark Institute:**

Asmark Institute is a national resource center serving the retail agricultural industry, consisting of retail agribusinesses, state and national trade associations, educational institutions and government agencies. The Institute provides compliance materials and services, develops common sense solutions to new regulatory requirements, assists the government in its mission of protecting life, property and the environment, monitors enforcement activity for uniformity, supports industry efforts to arrive at fair and reasonable regulation and provides a wealth of unique resources to give wings to the ideas designed to help lift an industry. The Institute is a private, not-for-profit organization that provides a forum for organizations to effectively collaborate on issues for the benefit of the retail agricultural industry.