

Anhydrous Ammonia Certified Grower Training

All growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand:

- NH3 properties and characteristics
- First aid procedures, Safety & PPE
- Emergency response
- Nurse tank safety
- Transportation safety
- Application and Transfer
- Maintenance and Inspection

Training applies to those individuals who transport or handle anhydrous ammonia:

- Farmers/Growers
- Farm Employees
- Family members
- Others that help
- Out of State Farmers/Growers

Certified grower training must be offered at **no cost** to the grower or grower farm operator via an in-person or online training program approved by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA).

This rule went into effect **April 1, 2022**. Growers and grower farm operators handling anhydrous ammonia must participate in refresher training every three years.

Grower Training Options



On-line: Visit the following link to begin the training:

<https://onetnet.illinois.gov/page.aspx?item=128037>



In-person: Only qualified persons who attend a "Train-the-Trainer" course can conduct in-person training.

8 IL Administrative Code Part 215.20 Safety

Section 215.20 Safety

d) All growers or grower farm operators who transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment, shall be certified to understand the properties of ammonia, to become competent in safe operating practices, and to take appropriate actions in the event of a leak or an emergency. Initial certification shall be achieved no later than April 1, 2022.

Section 215.15 Definitions

"Grower" means any individual who produces an agricultural commodity on property he or she owns or controls.

"Grower farm operator" means an individual employed by or otherwise authorized by a grower to transport or apply anhydrous ammonia, or to otherwise maintain anhydrous ammonia equipment. These individuals include grower family members, full- and part-time hired help, and others providing anhydrous ammonia services at no fee.

For more information on the rules, follow the link below:

<https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/008/00800215sections.html>



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Frequently Asked Questions

Where will the in-person training take place?

In-person will take place at various locations throughout the state sponsored by various ag groups, including ag retailers who offer ammonia.

As an ag retailer, can I train my own customers? Yes. Qualified ag retailers may provide training to growers.

Does this training content also qualify me to train my own retail employees? No, This training content does not satisfy the requirements for competent attendant training for ag retail employees.

How do I become a certified trainer?

IFCA will schedule and communicate the dates and locations for the Train-the-Trainer sessions, as soon as Covid restrictions allow us to do so. Please contact John Rebholz (john@ifca.com) to have your name added to the list for updates about training sessions.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 5 years experience in the anhydrous ammonia industry; practical experience with storage, application and equipment operation, inspection and maintenance;
- Comfort speaking in groups and ability to relate to growers and answer their questions;
- Experience using a computer, projector and microphone and access to suitable meeting rooms or outside venues to conduct training, including venues that can accommodate COVID-19 guidelines for in person events;
- Good organization and communication skills and ability to maintain and transmit training rosters to IDA;
- You must become a Certified Competent Attendant and commit to attend this IDA-sponsored training annually.

*All materials required to give the presentation will be provided to trainers, who must offer the class to growers at **no cost** to the grower.*

How will I know if a grower or grower farm operator has gone through the on-line or in-person training?

IDOA will provide the grower/grower farm operators with a certificate if they successfully complete the on-line or in-person training. **Note:** Certification shall be for a period of 3 years and refresher training shall be at least every 3 years. Documentation of completed training shall be maintained by the grower or grower farm operator.

My grower/farm operator lost or has not received their training certificate, how can I verify they went through the training?

You can contact the Illinois Department of Agriculture Bureau of Ag Products Inspection 217-782-3817. At this time it is uncertain whether IDOA will maintain a database of those individuals that have successfully completed the on-line or in-person training.

Does the grower need to show proof of certification to buy anhydrous ammonia?

Growers are not required to be certified to **purchase** anhydrous ammonia because we understand some farmers, farm managers and landlords who buy this product do not directly handle or apply it. Retailers, however, should request documentation before a grower or grower farm operator can pick-up the anhydrous ammonia or ammonia equipment. A certified grower or grower farm operator are responsible for maintaining proof of certification. The new regulation specifies that "Documentation of completed training shall be maintained by the grower or grower farm operator."



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