

■ **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970 (ANHYDROUS AMMONIA)**

TERMS: Agricultural employers subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Act (*see special note below*) must comply with rules regulating the storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia, a hazardous chemical commonly used as an agricultural fertilizer.

Construction of Ammonia Containers — Containers used for the transportation, storage or application of anhydrous ammonia, as well as the valves and fittings connected to such containers, must be built in accordance with specifications detailed in the rules. Containers and valves must be properly marked with certain identifying information.

On-Farm Ammonia Equipment — The regulations also require that farm vehicles used to transport ammonia in containers of 1,200 gallons or less be furnished with a full-face shield for the protection of each worker operating the equipment, and at least 5 gallons of clean water for use in case of accidental contamination of a worker. Ammonia tanks must be safely mounted on the vehicle or trailer, and trailers must be securely attached to the vehicle pulling them. Similarly, containers of 250-gallon capacity or less that are mounted on farm equipment and used for the application of ammonia in the fields must be securely attached and fitted with a level gauge and certain prescribed valves.

ENFORCEMENT: *Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210 (202-693-1999; toll-free 800-321-6742).*

Under a written plan approved by OSHA, each of the following states is authorized to enforce its own provisions regulating storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia in agricultural workplaces, identical or very similar to those described above:

Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

In these states, OSHA generally does not play a part in enforcing the anhydrous ammonia provisions. For the name of the state agency responsible for compliance, see the anhydrous ammonia summary under the heading "*Pesticides and Agricultural Chemicals*" for the particular state of interest.

SPECIAL NOTE: In accordance with Congressional restrictions on the use of federal funds for administration of this law, OSHA is prohibited in most cases from conducting inspections or otherwise enforcing these standards on any farm which employs fewer than 11 workers in any year. However, agricultural employers who operate a temporary labor camp are subject to the law without regard to the number of workers employed.