

Greetings from the warehouse here at Central Lakes Coop. Those of you who purchase bulk chemical, (Roundup, Cornerstone, Durango, Harness, etc) will find some changes for this year. The EPA has implemented some new rules effective Aug 17, 2011. We are going to be implementing as many of these rules as possible for this summer's spraying season so we can all get used to them. Here is a rundown of those rules as we understand them at this time. These rules will be enforced by the EPA, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the D.O.T. These rules apply to customer owned tanks as well as ours. I will cover the primary rules here.

*** All refillable bulk chemical containers must be leak tested at 3 PSI. Documentation of this must be on the tank. Tanks must be retested, externally inspected, and marked every 2.5 years. They must be internally inspected and marked every 5 years. We will be using a sticker with the information written on it.

*** Only approved containers can be used for bulk chemicals. The containers must have a U/N number or be on the "approved list" made available by each chemical company. There may also be an age limitation on how old a container can be and still be usable.

*** All openings in the container (except the vent) must have either a one way valve or a tamper-evident device affixed to it by the filler. If the seal is broken upon returning to the filler, the container must be cleaned out prior to refilling.

*** Each container must have a unique serial number or other identifying mark.

*** No pesticide residue may be on the outside of the container after filling.

*** All refillable containers must meet DOT design, construction, and marking.

*** You must have registrant's cleaning instructions and repackaging authorization on hand.

*** Records must be kept for each inspection and fill.

As you can see there are some things here that are going to cause us all some headaches for awhile. (I have one now.) So if we can get used to it now, it should be a piece of cake, right, ok at least a little easier. If you have questions please feel free to call me (Glen) and I will try to answer as accurately as possible. I still have some questions on a couple of things, but I think I understand most of it. Also please store the chemical tanks inside as much as possible. The sun's UV rays are very hard on the plastic. Here is a Web address if you would like further information on EPA's refillable container rules: www.epa.gov/pesticides/regulating/containers.htm.

We also have a new seed treatment system being installed. It is a computer controlled fully automated system. As I write this, most of the equipment is in place, and it should be operational by the 15th of April, (and I might even know how to run it by then!). You are welcome to stop in and see it anytime you are in the neighborhood.

Glen Lotthammer