

Overview

SECURITY VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

FOR AGRIBUSINESS RETAILERS

By The

AGRIBUSINESS SECURITY WORKING GROUP

New Web-Based Program Provides Retailers with a Means for Conducting a Security Assessment of their Facilities and Transportation of Hazardous Materials

The Agribusiness Security Working Group, as comprised of the Agricultural Retailers Association (ARA), CropLife America (CLA) and The Fertilizer Institute [TFI]) in cooperation with Asmark Inc. has produced a new Web-based tool which will assist agribusiness retailers in conducting a security vulnerability assessment on their retail facility and their transportation practices. This Security Vulnerability Assessment (SVA) is a tool to use to identify and assess potential security threats, risks and vulnerabilities.

About the Program:

The SVA tool designed by Asmark, Inc., a member of the Agricultural Retailers Association, has granted to ARA the license and use of the web-based program. ARA in turn has offered to share the SVA with the Agribusiness Security Working Group. Asmark, Inc. designed the web-based software to enable retail facilities to conduct a Security Vulnerability Assessment of their facilities and receive recommendations to improve overall security.

The program, which meets design criteria of the Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) for conducting security vulnerability assessments, is being made available to retailers nationwide through state fertilizer, agricultural chemical and agribusiness associations. By meeting CCPS design criteria, this SVA tool meets the same criteria that has been required by federal agencies for other chemical industry facilities. As a result, retailers who use this program to assess facility and Hazmat transportation security can do so with confidence that their assessment is based on sound risk assessment principles.

How to Proceed:

Individual retail facility owners/operators should contact their state associations to receive a username (number) and password in order to log onto the assessment website located at www.aradc.org (larger multiple facility companies may negotiate a discount

rate by contacting ARA directly and asking for Jack Eberspacher, President & CEO or Steve Hensley, Director of Regulatory Policy at 202-457-0825 and receive your username and password). Retailers must have the logon information BEFORE attempting to access the SVA. Retailers who successfully logon and complete the plan will receive an immediate security risk-level assessment. Within 10 days after submittal of the information, the retailer will receive, by hardcopy, a list of recommended security countermeasures to offset their vulnerabilities along with a copy of their assessment, a certificate of completion, and other related materials. These countermeasures can be used in the creation of facility security and HazMat transportation security plans.

Leading the Industry:

While a vulnerability assessment is not currently required by federal law for agricultural retail facilities, legislation is moving through Congress to do just that. ARA, CLA and TFI have opposed mandatory legislation and are hopeful that the industry can avoid mandatory regulations by voluntarily assessing its risk and increasing security. This tool gives the agricultural retail industry an unprecedented opportunity to take the lead in defining how it will do its part for homeland security and allows the ag retail sector to choose how to work with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and define its own security program before the government mandates it.

Mandatory Regulations for Transportation:

A vulnerability assessment **is** required for offerors and transporters of hazardous materials. This SVA tool will satisfy one part of the Department of Transportation's (DOT) new rule governing the shipment of Hazardous Materials which requires a vulnerability assessment and a transportation security plan by September 25, 2003. This tool will not only assess the vulnerabilities of Hazardous Material transportation but will provide countermeasures that can be used to aid in creation of the transportation security plan.

Fee Structure:

Member of ARA or CLA or TFI, & State	\$75
Member of ARA or CLA or TFI	\$150
Member of State	\$150
Not a member of any organization	\$300
Plus shipping and handling per facility	\$12.50

• **Multiple Discount Fee Structure:**

Multiple facilities may negotiate an additional discount. The parent company shall provide a point person in their EHS Department or a central contact to coordinate the submission of their facilities. Streamlining the process will cut administrative costs that can be passed on to users of the SVA program. ARA will negotiate the appropriate discount fee according the following schedule: 25-100 facilities 10%, 101-200 facilities 15% and 201 or more facilities 20%.