At the December 17, 2010 PNAAW board meeting, the board approved significant changes to the PNAAW certification program. These changes include a new set of Performance Standards that will be incorporated into the certification program and are designed to provide a basic level of assurance to customers that the equipment used by trained and certified applicators meets a higher standard.

These changes were discussed at the PNAAW 2011 Business Meeting, and were presented to the membership for feedback and discussion on March 7. Several changes and suggestions were incorporated into the Performance Standards at that meeting.

The Performance Standards are broken down into three categories – Bronze, Gold and Silver. Effective January 1, 2011, **ALL FIRMS** who wish to be certified under any of the current Levels (1, 2 or 3) must also meet the minimum requirements listed under the **Bronze Level**. Documentation of meeting this level must be provided to PNAAW before certification cards will be issued. **Silver and Gold Levels** are not tied to the certification program—they are optional for firms that choose to move to a higher performance standard.

The standards and implementation will be discussed at the 2012 annual meeting. PNAAW is gathering data on flow meter reliability, and it is anticipated that, pending the outcome, the frequency of flow meter calibration may change for future years for Silver and Gold.

A checklist for each level is available on the PNAAW website, and should be completed by the business owner. [http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimanuremgt/certification-program/](http://fyi.uwex.edu/wimanuremgt/certification-program/)

**BRONZE LEVEL**

**General Requirements**

- All equipment must be maintained in such a way that manure does not leak during transportation. Calibration of all equipment is required, and a record must be kept that includes the date, driver name, equipment serial number, and calibration information.
- In the event of a spill, a PNAAW Certified firm must designate one person who will stay at the spill site until cleanup is complete. This person will be the primary contact for the farmer, agencies and your firm’s employees if questions arise or decisions need to be made.

- The goal is no spillage on public roads. Any manure that is spilled on the public roads must be dealt with immediately.

- Documentation of meeting each level’s requirements must be provided to PNAAW annually prior to granting of certification.

**Liquid tankers**

- Equipment can be gravity flow or mechanically (air pressure, hydraulics, etc...) to unload spreaders or semi tankers.

- A small amount of drippage may occur from manure that is between the valve and the end of the splash pan, but the valve is tight when not applying in the field.

**Solids spreaders**

- Must conform to manufacturer’s specifications no matter what type of manure is hauled (dry, semi solid or liquid). The goal is no spillage on public roads.

**Drag hose systems**

- Must be in good working order, hoses and fittings must be free of leaks.

- A properly installed, maintained and working flow meter is required.

- Operators must have a way to shut off or idle down the pumps within 30 seconds of leak detection—either remote control or a person stationed at the main pump.
SILVER LEVEL

General Requirements

- Firms desiring Silver Certification must meet all of the Bronze Level requirements.

- Calibration of flow meters requires a bench check. The bench check will be done with water and the meter should have a variable of no more than manufacturer’s settings. The testing method must be an approved method for the meter being tested. No one that uses a flow meter can test their own meters for certification purposes. It must be verified through a neutral 3rd party. Flow meter calibration records must include the date, operator name, equipment serial number, and calibration information.

Liquid tankers

- Discharge pipe must have a tight sealing valve

- Fill hole must have a butterfly lid or other means of minimizing spillage while in transport or if a roll over would occur.

- You must have a uniform spread pattern of a minimum of 8 feet wide, via splash plate, throughout the unloading process (from the time opening the valve to the closing of valve), at a set travel rate.

Solids spreaders

- Must conform to manufactures specifications, modifications can be made if it enhances the containment characteristics of the spreader.

- Any equipment put in service after 12/31/2010 must have a lid, tarp, or other means of preventing blow-off.
**Drag hose systems**

- Flow meters must be calibrated once every 24 months.
- Have a regular schedule for a current PNAAW Level One Certified employee to patrol the entire length of the dragline to inspect for pinhole leaks or other signs of leakage, damaged hose or loose clamps. Line must include valves at a regular frequency or hose pinchers must be readily available.

**GOLD Level**

**General Requirements**

- Firms desiring Gold Certification must meet all of the Bronze and Silver Level requirements.
- All liquid application in the field must be metered with a flow meter. Solid manure must be scaled or weigh bared each load.
- Accurate as-applied maps (preferably GPS) shall be provided to the farmer for every field.

**Liquid tankers**

- The fill ports, if top loaded, must have a mechanical lid; whether it is a slide lid, an air locking or hydraulically locking lid, or other mechanical means of containing the load while in transport or if a roll over would occur. The goal is no spillage on public roads.
- If bottom loading, you must use a cap to seal the loading pipe during transport in case of valve failure.
- You must have a uniform spread pattern, via splash plate or mechanically operated splash pan, throughout unloading process, at a set travel rate, or operate in a way to achieve a uniform application rate across the field.
- All truck tankers/trucks must be able to pass a DOT inspection.
Solid spreaders

- If semi solids or liquids are hauled in this type of spreader, the spreader must have a lid. Dry or separated solids spreaders must use lids or tarps when hauling on public roads at any speed.

Drag hose systems

- Flow meters must be calibrated at least once every 12 months.

- A current PNAAW Level One or higher Certified individual will be traveling the feeder hose route at least once every half hour looking for signs of leakage, damaged hose or loose clamps. Line must include valves at a regular frequency or hose pinchers must be readily available.