

# Nutrient Application Technician Licence Performance Guidelines

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## Who needs a Nutrient Application Technician licence?

Under the Nutrient Management Act, you need a Nutrient Application Technician licence if you are applying nutrients to a farm that needs a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) or Non-Agricultural Source Material (NASM) Plan, and you are not the owner, operator or employee of that farm.

The laws that relate to nutrient application are:

- the Nutrient Management Act, 2002 (NMA)
- Ontario Regulation 267/03 (O. Reg 267/03)
- the associated Protocols

The skills and knowledge you need to be a Technician are outlined in the Core Competencies for Nutrient Application Technicians document, which you can find at: [www.nutrientmanagement.ca](http://www.nutrientmanagement.ca)

## What are Performance Guidelines?

The performance guidelines go beyond the legal requirements and core competencies of your technician licence – they provide consistent best management practices and describe the ways that OMAFRA expects you to provide services to clients.

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## Performance Guidelines for Nutrient Application Technicians

### General

1. Act conscientiously and diligently in providing services to clients.
2. Stay current and keep learning about nutrient management legislation and practices, as well as other laws (eg. Highway Traffic Act, Occupational Health and Safety Act).
3. Access OMAFRA resources (Factsheets and Infosheets), Best Management Practices books, and websites such as [www.nutrientmanagement.ca](http://www.nutrientmanagement.ca) to help you do your job.
4. Know your company's operating practices and how to use the equipment.
5. Remember that you are required to apply nutrients correctly and responsibly.
6. Talk to your client and employer to confirm that the setbacks and sensitive features in the NMP or NASM Plan are accurate.
7. Ask your employer if you aren't sure about something.
8. Should you change employers, review the "Talk to your Employer" section of your training binder to ensure you understand your new employer's expectations and standard operating procedures.

## Land Application

1. Use best management practices and exercise common sense when applying on land, for example:
  - Check weather forecasts to avoid spreading right before heavy rain
  - Be aware of field conditions to reduce runoff
2. Keep your equipment well maintained and properly calibrated.
3. Know and follow proper safety procedures for opening, venting and emptying storages, and when working around covered manure storages.
4. Use regulatory standards as best/beneficial management practices for all farm operations, even those that don't require an NMP or NASM Plan under the NMA. For example:
  - Avoid over application
  - Identify potential contamination points
  - Recognize sensitive features
  - Use appropriate application methods
  - Land apply to legislative standards on all farms
  - Monitor tile drains during and after land application

## Providing Professional Services

1. Report any adverse effects, whether they occur on your job site or elsewhere.
2. Keep accurate records for all clients. Record dates, names and locations of generators and receivers, and types and volumes of agricultural source materials. Provide records to clients when requested.
3. Follow practices that promote good relations between client(s) and their neighbours.
4. Follow on-farm biosecurity measures.
5. Notify your client or employer if any current or planned activity is against the law or not following good management practices.

## Communications with Government Agencies

1. Immediately inform the proper government agency of any illegal nutrient management activities.

### For more information:

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[www.nutrientmanagement.ca](http://www.nutrientmanagement.ca)