

April 20, 2010



Innovative Ag Services Grain Customers,

In recent months, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) has reviewed its interpretation of their grain handling safety standard 1910.272 that addresses whether an employee may enter a grain bin when sweep augers are in operation. This action was prompted by a letter of inquiry made to OSHA from an insurance company representative asking the agency to clarify its policy for operating a sweep auger.

OSHA had met with two national grain organizations, the National Grain & Feed Association (NGFA) and the Grain Elevator and Processing Society (GEAPS) to learn more about how bin sweeps are being used in the industry and assist in formulating a reasonable and thought out response that would be a usable and expectable practice in the grain industry.

Much to their dismay, OSHA's response was simply that "an employee cannot work inside a bin while a sweep auger is in operation". **In order to comply with OSHA, effective immediately all IAS employees and any contract haulers working for IAS are not to enter a grain bin while a bin sweep is in operation.** We must comply with this standard to avoid any liability that may be imposed on Innovative Ag Services. The same liability issues could apply to individual producers or possibly even landlords.

The NGFA and GEAPS are continuing to lobby OSHA to re-address their policy and procedures for use of bin sweeps but for now, we will comply with the policy presented by OSHA. If changes in policy are made, we will review and restore any means of service that you have come to expect from IAS.

Please keep this policy in mind when scheduling pickup of grain from your facilities. One option may be the use of a grain vac. This directive also affects our own facilities and we are evaluating the installation of zero-entry power sweeps and/or the use of a grain vac as well.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your location manager or give me a call at 319-465-6896. Have a safe spring!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian J. Kramer".

Brian Kramer
Vice President, Operations