

# WPS Compliance and Training Resources



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# What is WPS?



- **Worker Protection Standard**
- ✓ EPA rule that provides protections for agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.
- ✓ Original rule – 1992
- ✓ Revised in 2015
- ✓ Revisions intended to provide more protections for workers and handlers and include expanded training content and requirements.

# What is WPS?



## **INFORM**

- Pesticide safety training
- Access to pesticide information
- Access to labeling
- Notification of applications

## **PROTECT**

- Keep workers out of treated areas
- PPE
- Monitoring
- REIs
- AEZ
- Protections for early-entry workers

## **MITIGATE**

- Decontamination supplies
- Emergency Assistance

# WPS



- **INFORM**

- Pesticide safety training for workers and handlers.
- Access to specific information regarding pesticide applications at a central location.
- Access to pesticide label information.
- Notify workers about pesticide applications so those areas can be avoided.

# WPS



- **PROTECT**
- Keep workers out of areas treated with pesticides.
- Keep workers away from application equipment (AEZ).
- Keep workers out of areas under an REI.
- Monitor handlers when using highly toxic products.
- Provide and maintain PPE.
- Provide respirator medical evaluation, fit testing and training.

# WPS



- **MITIGATE**
- Provide decontamination supplies including water, soap and single use towels.
- Provide emergency eyewash when required.
- Provide transportation to an emergency medical facility in the event of a pesticide exposure.

# Who must comply with WPS?



Owners/employers/operators of agricultural establishments:

- FARMS
- FORESTS
- NURSERIES
- GREENHOUSES

# WPS Labeled Pesticides



## AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This Standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE) and restricted-entry interval. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

**Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted-entry interval (REI) of 12 hours.**

PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil, or water is:

- Coveralls over short-sleeved shirt and short pants
- Chemical-resistant gloves – EPA chemical-resistance category B (e.g., barrier laminate or butyl rubber ≥14 mils)
- Chemical-resistant footwear plus socks
- Protective eyewear
- Chemical-resistant headgear for overhead exposure

# Who must comply with WPS?



Agricultural establishments that employ pesticide handlers (Handlers) and employees that perform worker tasks in treated areas (Workers).

Workers and Handlers are compensated with a wage or salary. Volunteer activities not covered by WPS.

Members of the owners immediate family are exempt from many, but not all, WPS requirements.

# WPS TRAINING



- Agricultural employers are required to provide training to workers and handlers.
- EPA approved training courses.
- No grace period

# Who can train Workers and Handlers?



- Licensed pesticide applicators
- Trained Trainers
- Others designated as trainers by state agency

# TTT



- Train the Trainer Training  
[www.pesticideresources.org](http://www.pesticideresources.org)
- Web based training video
  - \$35.00 for the course
  - Self paced learning
  - 2-3 hours, 12 modules, 1 final exam
  - One time training– No refresher course required
  - Keep a record of training date and material

# TTT



- Powerpoint trainings in English and Spanish
- Closed captions available
- 166 slides, 12 sections
- Trained trainers can conduct Worker or Handler training.

# Worker and Handler Training



- Must be delivered in a manner that can be understood and in an area reasonably free from distractions.
- Trainer must be present at all times during the training to answer questions.
- Worker Training – 23 items
- Handler Training – 36 items
- Videos and powerpoint trainings available on [www.pesticideresources.org](http://www.pesticideresources.org)

# Worker and Handler Training



Training information is available on EPA's website:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety>

EPA's WPS How to Comply Manual:

<https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/pesticide-worker-protection-standard-how-comply-manual>

# Training Records



- 2015 Revisions require training records be kept by the agricultural employer.
- Records must be kept for two years and made available to the workers or handlers upon request.

# Training Records



- **Required Info on Training Records:**
  - The date of training
  - Employer's Name
  - Training course approval number, ex. EPA 000029
  - Trained employee name and signature
  - Trainer's name and qualification to train ( TDA license number, TTT course)

# Worker and Handler Training



- Handlers can no longer train workers
- Training must be conducted with EPA approved course material. An approval number will accompany the material.
- Expanded content with 2015 Revisions:
  - Worker training – 23 items
  - Handler training – 36 items
- Make sure you are using the correct training material!!!

# WPS Training



**Questions about WPS training??**

# WPS Compliance



- Common areas of noncompliance observed during inspections:
  - Record Keeping – Training records, Respirator training records, Pesticide application records
  - Training – Training not conducted on an annual basis, No training provided at all

# WPS Compliance



- Notification – Not properly notifying employees of pesticide applications at the establishment
- Central Posting Area – Pesticide app info not kept for 30 days, No SDS sheets, Old Posters in use
- Respirator Use – No medical evaluations, fit testing or training provided to pesticide handlers

# WPS Compliance



- Pesticide Label violations – REI not observed, No double notification provided to workers, No PPE provided to early entry workers

# WPS Q & A



**Got Questions?????**

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: According to WPS, who is an Agricultural Employer?

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: According to WPS, who is an Agricultural Employer?
- A: Owner or Operator of an Ag. Establishment that employs Workers and/or Handlers

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: What is an REI?

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: What is an REI?
- A: Restricted Entry Interval. The amount of time following a pesticide application that all persons must be kept out of the treated area

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: How often is Worker and Handler training required to be conducted?

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: How often is Worker and Handler training required to be conducted?
  - A: Annually

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: Employers must provide access to emergency medical care by doing these two things:

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: Employers must provide access to emergency medical care by doing these two things:
- A: Post info about the nearest ER at a central location AND make transportation to an ER available in the event of a pesticide exposure

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: In the event of a medical emergency, an employer must provide these 3 things to medical staff:

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: In the event of a medical emergency, an employer must provide these 3 things to medical staff:

- A: SDS Sheets

Information about the pesticide

Details of the exposure

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: How long are training records to be kept on file?

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: How long are training records to be kept on file?
  - A: 2 years

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: List the 3 things to be kept at the Central Posting Area:

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: List the 3 things to be kept at the Central Posting Area:
  - A: Safety Poster
  - SDS Sheets
  - Pesticide Application Info

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: List the three items required in the Decontamination Area:

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: List the three items required in the Decontamination Area:

- A: Water  
Soap  
Single Use Towels

# TRIVIA!!!!



- True or False: PPE can be stored in the same area as the pesticide containers.

# TRIVIA!!!!



- True or False: PPE can be stored in the same area as the pesticide containers.
  - A: **FALSE!** Do not store PPE with pesticide products. Keep in a separate area, or in a sealed container as far away as possible from the pesticides.

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: When are posted warning signs required to be displayed in greenhouses when an application is made?

# TRIVIA!!!!



- Q: When are posted warning signs required to be displayed in greenhouses when an application is made?
- A: When the REI on the label is greater than **4** hours. Signs must be displayed no earlier than 24 hours prior to the application and must come down within 3 days after the expiration of the REI.

**Thank You!**  
**If you have questions, please let me  
know. I'm here to help!**



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