

Worker Protection Standards (WPS)

Overview of Changes (new items are underlined)

Effective 1/2/2017

Training

- Annual training is required for both fieldworkers & handlers
- Trainers must be certified applicators or have completed an EPA-approved train-the-trainer program
- Train-the-trainer programs and training materials must be EPA-approved
- Location of training must be “reasonably free from distraction”
- Trainer must be present throughout the training
- Training record must include employee name and signature, employer’s name, trainer’s name and qualifications, title(s) and source(s) of training materials used, date, plus job to be assigned to the employee
- Employers must keep training records for 2 years and give a copy to workers and handlers upon request

Minimum Age

- Handlers and early-entry workers must be at least 18 years old.

Hazard Communication

- Application-specific information display for handlers or fieldworkers must now include crop or site treated and identification of the treated area, start and end time of application, and safety data sheets (SDS).
Employers must retain these records for two years.
- Requires the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-8 posting at all permanent decontamination facilities and at those servicing 11 or more handlers.
- Requires the (PSIS) A-9 posting at all permanent decontamination facilities and at those servicing 11 or more fieldworkers.
- Changes to emergency medical care info on the A-8 or A-9 must be updated within 24 hours of change.
- A request from an employee representative for records must be in writing and include: 1) the name of the employee, 2) a description of the specific information requested, 3) a written statement designating the

representative, bearing the employee's printed name, signature, date of designation, and the printed name and contact information for the employee representative, 4) directions on where the requested information should be sent

- For field reentry, early entry employees (during a restricted entry interval)- there are additional requirements listed for 1) No Contact activities, 2)Short-term, limited-contact activities, and 3)Short-term, high-contact activities, (6770(e)

Decontamination sites for Handlers or Fieldworkers

- Employee must be informed of location of the decontamination site prior to beginning their work
- Fieldworkers require at least 1 gallon of water per employee at the beginning of the day
- Handlers require at least 3 gallons per handler at the beginning of each handler's work day
- At the mixing/loading site: If the product labeling requires protective eyewear or a closed mixing system, employees must have access to gently running water at a rate of 0.4 gallons/minute for at least 15 minutes, or at least six gallons of water in containers suitable for providing a gentle eye-flush for about 15 minutes for emergency eye-flushing
- Hand sanitizing gels and liquids or wet towelettes cannot be used to meet the requirement for soap and single use towels

Equipment Maintenance

- **Persons who own or operate pesticide mixing, loading or application equipment shall inform each employee under their control who may clean, service or repair that equipment the hazards of the pesticides they may encounter and methods of protecting against personal injury**
- **When cleaning, servicing or repairing is performed by persons not under the control of the owner of the equipment, the owner shall notify the person who will perform these tasks: 1) the equipment was used for agricultural production and may be contaminated with pesticides, 2)Procedures for handling pesticide application equipment and for limiting exposure to pesticide residues, 3) Personal hygiene practices and decontamination procedures**

- Employees who clean, service or repair mixing and application equipment shall be provided with any necessary PPE by the employer, and shall be instructed and supervised to reduce work hazards.

Change Area

- The employer shall assure there is, at the place where employees end their exposure period and remove their personal protective equipment, an area where employees may change clothes and wash themselves. Clean towels, soap and sufficient water shall be available to allow for thorough washing. (ag production, or use danger or warning pesticides)
- The employer shall provide a clean, pesticide-free place where employees may store any personal clothing not in use while at work handling pesticides.

Emergency Medical Care

- The employer shall provide the following information to medical personnel treating an employee suspected of being exposed to a pesticide (ag production): 1)Copies of the SDS(s), 2)the circumstances of the application or use of the pesticide, 3)the circumstances that could have resulted in exposure to the pesticide

Field Postings

- The operator of the property shall assure that signs are posted around treated fields for any application that results in a REI of greater than 48 hours or if entirely an enclosed space (greenhouse) an REI greater than 4 hours
- Signs shall be posted so are visible at all usual points of entry (each road, footpath, walkway) that enters the treated field, and each border with any worker housing area within 100 feet of the treated field. If there are no usual points of entry, signs shall be posted at the corners of the treated field
- When treated field is adjacent to an unfenced public right-of-way, additional signs shall be posted at each end of the treated field and at intervals not exceeding 600 feet along the border

Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) (new)

- **Means the area surrounding the application equipment during an application which must be free of all persons other than appropriately trained and equipped handlers during pesticide applications**
- **If the pesticide is applied for outdoor production the AEZ is the area that extends 100 feet horizontally from the application equipment in all directions during application when the pesticide is applied aerially; air blast; as a fumigant, smoke, mist or fog; or as a fine spray**
- **The area extends 25 feet horizontally from the application equipment in all directions during application when the pesticide is applied in a manner not specified above and is sprayed from a height of greater than 12 inches from the soil or planting medium using at least a medium spray**
- **There is no AEZ when the pesticide is applied in a manner other than those above**
- **The American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers or comparable standard may be used to measure and interpret spray quality (fine, medium or larger than medium)**
- **The AEZ has different requirements for enclosed spaces (greenhouses)**

Notices of Applications

- **Notice to property operators (ex: from Pest Control Businesses or farm managers) must now include application start time and estimated end time**
- **If there is a change in the notice of the scheduled application, each person performing pest control shall assure that the operator of the property receives notice of this change prior to the application**
- **The operator of the property shall assure that notice is given to employees (including fieldworkers) or other persons whom the operator has prior knowledge that he or she will likely enter the field to be treated.**
- **Notices must include instructions not to enter the field to be treated and its AEZ until authorized by the operator of the property**

Notice of Completed Applications

- Any person applying pesticides (for ag productions) shall assure the operator of the property treated receives notice, orally or in writing and within 24 hours of completion of the pesticide application
- Must include the date(s) and time(s) the application started and ended
- The operator of the treated property shall maintain a written record of the application(s) on their property

Enclosed Cabs

- If a filtering facepiece respirator (NIOSH approval number prefix TC-84A) or dust/mist filtering respirator is required by the pesticide product labeling, then no respirator is required to be worn inside the enclosed cab if the enclosed cab has a properly functioning air ventilation system that is used and maintained in accordance with the manufacture's written operating instructions.
- If any other type of respirator is required by the pesticide label, then the respirator must be worn inside the enclosed cab during handling activities.
- If personal protective equipment is contaminated by use in a treated area, it shall be removed and stored in a chemical-resistant container, such as a plastic bag, before reentering the cab.

Pest Control Advisors and Foresters must now comply with emergency medical posting, decontamination facilities, and PPE requirements for their employees 6720(d).

EPA has a few more additional requirements that will be coming out sometime in 2018.

For complete code sections please contact the Ag Department at 530-621-5520