



Pesticide Regulations, Rules and Rules-of-Thumb

Checklists and Other Aids for Selecting and Using Pesticides

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WPS Requirements for Pesticide Handlers

Refer to the *Quick Reference* in the EPA Worker Protection Standard *How-To-Comply* manual for WPS requirements.

A pesticide handler is any one who works for salary, wages or any form of compensation (including commercial applicators) and who handles pesticides. Pesticide handlers include persons who mix, load, or handle opened pesticide containers; apply pesticides, incorporate soil applied pesticides; work on pesticide application equipment; or act as a flagger. Persons performing tasks as a crop advisor (scouts) were included under the definition of a pesticide handler.

- G** Information at a central location (WPS safety poster, application list, location of emergency medical facility)
- G** Pesticide safety training for handlers
 - The content of handler training must include:
 - G** format and meaning of pesticide label information;
 - G** hazards resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization;
 - G** exposure routes;
 - G** signs and symptoms of common pesticide poisoning;
 - G** first aid for pesticide poisonings;
 - G** how to obtain emergency medical care;
 - G** routine and emergency decontamination procedures;
 - G** need for and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE);
 - G** prevention, recognition, and treatment of heat-related illness;
 - G** safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, disposing of pesticides;
 - G** environmental concerns;
 - G** warnings about taking pesticides or their containers home;
 - G** requirements that must be followed by handler employers for the protection of handlers and others, including:
 - the prohibition against applying pesticides in a manner that will cause contact with workers or others, use of PPE, provisions for training and decontamination, and protection against retaliatory

acts

- G** Decontamination site (water, soap, towels, change of clothing, etc.)
- G** Emergency assistance (transportation and information)
- G** Restrictions during applications (don't allow pesticide contact directly/through drift)
- G** Monitoring handlers (if handling skull and crossbones pesticides anywhere or fumigants in greenhouses)
- G** Specific instructions for handlers (pesticide label information and how to use application equipment)
- G** Equipment safety (inspection and maintenance of application equipment)
- G** Personal protective equipment (provide, clean, maintain PPE, prevent heat illness)
- G** Exceptions to personal protective equipment (closed systems, enclosed cabs, cockpits)