
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

1. Provide handlers with the PPE the pesticide labeling requires for the task, and be sure it is:

- clean and in operating condition
- Worn and used correctly
- Inspected before each day of use
- Repaired or replaced as needed

2. When a respirator is required by label, handlers must have training on its care and use, a medical evaluation and fit test prior to first use.

3. Take steps to avoid heat illness

4. Provide handlers a pesticide-free area for:

- Storing personal clothing not in use
- Putting on PPE at start of task
- Taking off PPE at end of task

5. Do not allow used PPE to be worn home or taken home.

Care of PPE

1. Store and wash used PPE separately from other clothing and laundry.

2. If PPE will be reused, clean it before each day of use, according to the instructions from the PPE manufacturer unless the pesticide labeling specifies other requirements. If there are no other instructions, wash in detergent and hot water.

3. Dry the clean PPE before storing, or hand to dry

4. Store clean PPE away from other clothing and away from pesticide areas.

Replacing Respirator Purifying Elements

1. Replace particulate filtering facepieces:

- When breathing becomes difficult
- When filter is damaged or torn
- When respirator label or pesticide label requires (whichever is shorter), or
- **At the end of 8 hours of cumulative use**, in the absence of any other instructions or indications

2. Replace vapor removing cartridges/canisters:

- When breathing becomes difficult
- When odor/taste/irritation is noticed
- When respirator label or pesticide label requires (whichever is shorter)
- When the end-of-service life indicator indicates it, or on a schedule determined by the employer to be protective, or
- **At the end of 8 hours of cumulative use**, in the absence of any other instructions or indications

Disposal of PPE

1. Discard coveralls and other absorbent materials that are heavily contaminated with undiluted pesticide having a "DANGER" or "WARNING" signal word.

2. Follow federal, state, and local laws when disposing of PPE that cannot be cleaned correctly.

Instructions for People who Clean PPE

Inform people who clean or launder PPE:

- That PPE may be contaminated with pesticides
- Of the potentially harmful effects of exposure to pesticides
- How to protect themselves when handling PPE
- How to clean PPE correctly.

New Record-Keeping and Information Access Requirements

The following records must be kept for two years:

1. Worker and Handler Training verification records

2. Application-specific records and SDSs

- **Keep record of the same information posted at the central display**
- **Employee, employee's designated representative or treating medical professional must be allowed access to item #2**

3. Respirator compliance record

Compliance Deadlines for New Worker Protection Rules

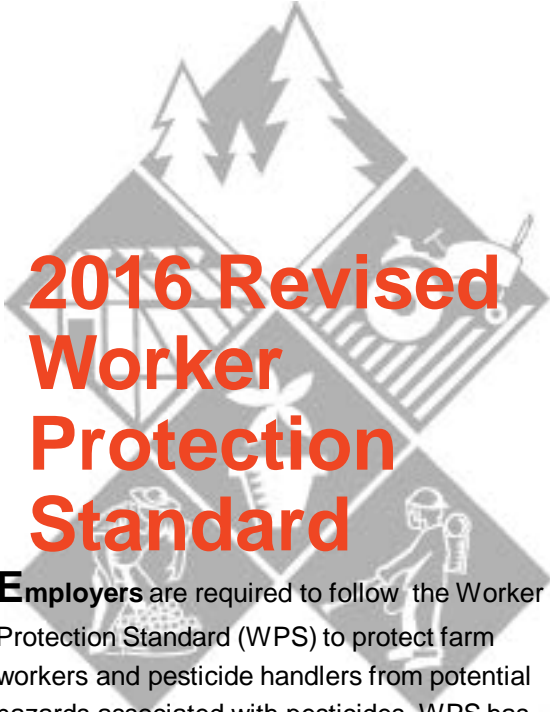
January 2, 2017

- **Most Revised WPS requirements**

January 1, 2018

- **New Training Content for worker and handler training**
- **New Content in the pesticide safety information poster**
- **Requirement for Handlers to suspend application if anyone is in the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)**

For more information on 2016 revisions to WPS see <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard>



2016 Revised Worker Protection Standard

Employers are required to follow the Worker Protection Standard (WPS) to protect farm workers and pesticide handlers from potential hazards associated with pesticides. WPS has specific requirements for hazard communication, safety training, display of information about pesticide applications, restrictions during/after applications, **recordkeeping**, and the provision of personal protective equipment, decontamination supplies, and emergency assistance. This brochure gives brief overview of the key requirements for agricultural employers. The guide presents maximum requirements in most cases, and does not include exceptions or certain situations with lesser or different requirements.

A substantial revision of WPS became effective in 2016. New requirements of WPS are indicated in **BOLD** in this brochure. A new comprehensive compliance manual will be available in late 2016.

This brochure was modified from EPA's 2005 Quick Reference Guide by Mary Ann Rose
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Key WPS Requirements

•Information at a Central Location.

1. In an easily seen central location on each agricultural establishment, display close together:
 - EPA WPS safety Poster (revised poster not yet available)
 - Name, address, and telephone number for nearest emergency medical facility, and **for state regulatory agency for pesticides (Ohio Department of Agric.)**
 - **Post no later than 24 hours after application**, or before any workers enter a treated area, and until 30 days after the restricted entry interval (REI): **SDSs** and these facts about each pesticide application: product name, active ingredient, EPA registration no., **crop or site treated**, location/description of treated area, date & **start/stop times of application**, REI.
2. Tell workers and handlers where information is posted, and allow them access.
3. Tell them if emergency information changes and update posted information. Keep all info legible!

Pesticide Safety Training

- Train handlers and workers before they begin work and **thereafter once each year**.
- Use EPA-approved Worker training materials for workers, EPA-approved Handler training materials for handlers
- **By Jan 2018 must use updated training materials NEW EPA training materials avail in 2017!**
- Have a **certified applicator** conduct the training in a manner employees can understand, and remain present through the entire training.

Decontamination Supplies

1. Establish accessible decontamination supplies located within ¼ mile of all workers and handlers. Supply:
 - Water for routine and emergency whole-body washing and for eye flushing: **1 gal/worker, 3 gal/handler**
 - Plenty of soap and single-use towels
 - A clean coverall for handlers
2. Provide water that is safe and cool enough for washing, for eyeflushing, and for drinking. Do not use tank-stored water that is also used for mixing pesticides.
3. Provide handlers the same supplies where personal protective equipment (PPE) is removed at the end of a task.
4. Provide an **eyeflush system at each** mixing and loading site, as well as the decontamination supplies listed above.

5. Make at least 1 pint eyeflush water immediately accessible to each applicator
6. Do not put worker decontamination supplies in areas being treated or under and REI
7. In areas being treated, put decontamination supplies for handlers in enclosed containers.

Emergency Assistance

When any handler or worker may have been poisoned or injured by pesticides:

1. Promptly make transportation available to an appropriate medical facility.
2. Promptly provide to the medical personnel:
 - Product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredient(s)
 - **Product SDS**
 - All first aid and medical information from label
 - Description of how the pesticide was used
 - Information about victim's exposure

Restrictions During Applications

- 1 Allow entry only to appropriately trained and equipped handlers in:
 - The treatment area
 - **The Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ).** Under revised WPS this area surrounds the application equipment and will vary in diameter depending on the type of application.
2. Allow only handlers to be in a greenhouse until ventilation requirements (if any) are satisfied.

Restricted-Entry Intervals (REIs)

During any REI, do not allow workers to enter a treated area and contact anything treated with the pesticide to which the REI applies.

Notice About Applications

1. Orally warn workers and post treated areas if the pesticide labeling requires both.
2. Otherwise, **either** orally warn workers or post entrances to treated areas. Tell workers which method is in effect.

3. Must post warning signs if:

- **REI > 48 hours in outdoor production**
- **REI > 4 hours in enclosed space production**

Posted Warning Signs

1. Post legible 14" X 16" WPS-design signs just before application; keep posted during REI; remove before workers enter and within 3 days after the end of the REI.
2. Post signs in manner visible at all entries to treated areas.

Oral Warnings

1. Before each application, tell workers who are on the establishment (in a manner they can understand):
 - Location and description of treated area,
 - REI, and not to enter during REI.
2. Workers who enter the establishment after application starts must receive the same warning at the start of their work period.

Application Restrictions and Monitoring

- Do not allow handlers to apply a pesticide so that it contacts, directly or through drift, anyone other than trained and PPE-equipped handlers.
- **Handlers must suspend application if others stray into the Application Exclusion Zone, which is not limited by the boundary of the establishment's property.**
- Make sight or voice contact at least every 2 hours with anyone handling pesticides labeled with a skull and crossbones.
- Make sure a trained handler equipped with labeling-specified PPE maintains constant voice or visual contact with any handler in a greenhouse who is doing fumigant-related tasks, such as application or air-level monitoring

Specific Instructions for Handlers

1. Handlers must be 18 years of age

2. Before handlers do any handling task, inform them in a manner they can understand of all pesticide labeling instructions for safe use, REIs, and entry restrictions that apply.
- 3 Keep pesticide labeling accessible to each handler during entire handling task.
4. Before handlers use any assigned handling equipment, tell them how to use it safely.
5. When commercial applicator will be on an agricultural establishment, inform them beforehand of:
 - Areas on the establishment where pesticides will be applied or where an REI will be in effect.
 - Restrictions on entering those areas. Provide this information

Equipment Safety

1. Inspect pesticide application equipment before each use, and repair and replace as needed.
2. Allow only appropriately trained and equipped handlers to repair, clean, or adjust pesticide equipment that contains pesticides or residues.