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, Ohio State University Extension Pesticide Safety Education Program, pested.osu.edu.
**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 eye flushing, 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 eyewash system at each mixing and loading site, as well as the decontamination supplies listed above.

- **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.
  - 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.

- **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**
  - **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.