



PEP-TALK

OSU Pesticide Education Programs

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WPS Amendments

NEW WPS AMENDMENTS ANNOUNCED FOR DECONTAMINATION SITES AND SIGNS

Several proposed changes to the WPS were published for public comment last fall. Progress slowed due to the Congressional budget battles. On June 26, 1996 the Federal EPA published their changes in the Federal Register. The amendments will go into effect on August 26, 1996. The final amendments include changes in requirements for decontamination sites and warning signs. According to EPA the amendments are intended to make the standards more practical and flexible for states and farmers to implement while maintaining safeguards for agricultural workers. The amendments are designed to:

- o encourage the use of lower toxicity pesticides,
- o allow the use of languages other than Spanish when appropriate, and
- o facilitate posting of pesticide-treated areas in nurseries and greenhouses.

Overall, these changes will have no impact on field crop producers. Groups most affected by the changes are nursery and greenhouse growers and growers who are using biological control products such as B.t. and horticultural oils, etc.

1) DECONTAMINATION SITES

The first amendment will decrease from 30 days to seven (7) days, the time during which decontamination supplies (soap, water, single use towels/paper towels) must be available to

workers entering fields WHEN LOW TOXICITY PESTICIDES ARE USED. The 30 day requirement remains in effect for all other pesticides.

Low toxicity pesticides are those which have restricted entry intervals of four hours (4) or less. Until now, the standards required decontamination supplies to be available whenever a worker performed any activity in a pesticide-treated area or where entry had been restricted within the past 30 days. However, in greenhouse situations where growers may be making frequent applications, this rule change may be of little benefit if you have overlapping post-application periods. For example, if you are on a weekly spray schedule, the seven day requirement would be in effect after every application and would result in requiring decontamination sites continuously. In many cases greenhouses already have soap, towels and water on-site continuously. Also, only a few of the pesticides used by growers have 4 hr. REI's.

2) WPS WARNING SIGNS

o Alternate Second Language

The second amendment allows employers to replace the Spanish language on required warning signs with another language tailored to suit the language most often used by workers in that location. The English portion of the sign must remain. However, employers are not required to replace the current English/Spanish signs. The language substitution is an option.

The existing standards require posting of warning signs that are visible from all usual points of worker entry into the treated areas and signs must remain visible and legible during the time they are posted.

o Signs in greenhouses & nurseries

Also, as part of the second amendment, EPA will permit the use of smaller warning signs in nurseries and greenhouses regardless of the size of treated areas. Signs of approximately four and one-half by five (4.5 x 5") inches can be used if the distance between signs is 25 feet or less. Signs of approximately seven by eight (7 x 8") inches can be used if the distance between signs is 50 feet or less. Details of the size of lettering are included in the amendment document. The standard 14 X 16 sign can still be used.

\$4 Million Benlate Case

\$4 MILLION AWARDED IN BENLATE CASE

On June 7, a state circuit court jury awarded a Dade County, Florida family \$4 million in damages. A petitioner in the Florida suit, Mrs. Castillo was walking near a field in South Dade county in late 1989 when she was sprinkled with moisture thought to be Benlate 50 DF. According to news reports of the case, the couple's son was later born without eyes (a birth defect characterized as microphthalmia).

DuPont said it will appeal the verdict. DuPont Senior Vice Pres. for Regulatory Affairs, Stacey Mobley said the jury "failed to meet the challenge" of looking beyond the tragedy to determine "whether DuPont's product, Benlate bears any connection with John Castillo's birth defect." He also said that "There is no credible scientific evidence linking the use of Benlate to human health effects."

(P & T Chem. News, June 12, 1996)

Estrogen Mimickers

CHEMICAL COMBINATIONS BECOME POWERFUL ESTROGEN MIMICKERS

According to a study by Tulane University published in the June 7 issue of SCIENCE, certain pesticides having weak estrogenic (hormone-disrupting) effects by themselves, can become up to 1,600 times stronger when combined.

The effects of four pesticides were studied including dieldrin, chlordane, toxaphene and endosulfan. Tests were done on a type of yeast that carries a human estrogen receptor. However, more data is needed on mammalian systems. All the pesticides but endosulfan are now banned, but they persist in the environment, as do PCBs. The study showed that chlordane, which has no ability to disrupt hormones by itself, greatly magnifies the ability of other chemicals to disrupt hormones.

If these findings are confirmed by follow-up studies, it could profoundly affect the way chemicals are viewed, tested for toxicity and regulated because combinations of chemicals may have to be considered. (E-mail: Don Baumgartner U.S. EPA Region 5, DANGERS OF CHEMICAL COMBINATIONS, Environ. Research Found. Abstract June 17, 1996; P & T Chem. News: June 12, 1996)

CCA Information

The PAT office has an outline regarding steps that must be taken to either receive personal CCA credit for yourself or to apply for CCA credit for workshops that you may be offering. If you have not already received this information in the mail, let us know and we will get a copy to you.

Spray Drift Battle

SPRAY DRIFT LEGISLATION BATTLE IN NEW YORK

A Nassau County, N.Y., law aimed at preventing drift exposure to neighbors by requiring advance notice of pesticide applications in yards was overturned in court based on state law preemption of local statutes.

Pesticide applicators successfully fought the law. However, the Long Island Neighborhood Network now hopes to pass state legislation. If the state legislation is successful in the senate, it will apply to homeowners as well as applicators. The Nassau County law would have required at least five business days advance notification. It was aimed at 'airborne' substances, including sandblasting and power washing. The assembly bill, applies to pesticides sprayed through the air in residential areas and would require 48 hours notice. The senate version is similar. Both would allow the Department of Conservation (DEC) to make exceptions for emergencies. (P & T Chem. News: June 19, 1996)

Chemical & Label Update

The following information provides registration status of particular pesticides and should not be considered as pesticide recommendations by OSU Extension.

INSECTICIDES

Mevinphos: Product Recall Ends in July

Amvac Chemical Corporation will accept any remaining products which contain mevinphos --Phosdrin -- until July 27, 1996, the company said in a June 5 press release.

The company will accept mevinphos from end users and dealers / resellers. Unopened mevinphos products will be financially reimbursed, Amvac said. Open containers will be accepted for return but will not be reimbursed. For more information about returning mevinphos products to Amvac call 1-800-205-5330. (P & T Chem. News: June 12, 1996)

Methyl parathion : WPS Correction

EPA issued a document in the Federal Register recently stating that Methyl parathion required both oral and written notification (double notification) of ag workers when it is applied. However, Methyl parathion was mentioned incorrectly. Determined as a Toxicity Category II, methyl parathion does not require double notification and, further study has shown that it is actually a Toxicity Category IV and is not a skin sensitizer. (Federal Register: May 3, 1996)

FRUIT

Fosetyl - aluminum (Aliette): Pesticide Tolerance For Use in or on Blueberry

Time-limited tolerance established for residues of this fungicide and its metabolites in or on the raw agricultural commodity blueberry. The Interregional Research Project No. 4 (IR-4) requested this regulation which became effective June 19, 1996. (Federal Register: June 19, 1996)

Acifluorfen (Blazer): Tolerance Established on Strawberries

EPA established tolerances for the herbicide sodium salt of acifluorfen in or on the raw agricultural commodity strawberries. (Federal Register: June 14, 1996)

Trichoderma harzianum (Biocontrol agent): Temporary Exemption for Residues

EPA established a temporary exemption for residues of Trichoderma harzianum isolate T-39 when used as an antifungal agent in or on the raw agricultural commodities table grape, wine grape and strawberry.

(P & T News: June 19, 1996)

VEGETABLE

Quizalofop-P-ethyl ester (Assure II, Targa D+): Tolerance Established

The EPA established a time-limited tolerance in or on the raw agricultural commodities legume vegetables group, foliage of legume vegetables, sugarbeet root and sugarbeet top to expire June 14, 1999. A time-limited feed additive tolerance to expire June 14, 1999 has been established for sugarbeet molasses. (Federal Register: June 14, 1996)

Triflurosulfuron methyl (^{sugar beet} ~~Pinnacle~~): Time-limited Tolerance Established

A final rule establishing a time-limited tolerance to expire June 14, 1999 has been established for residues of the herbicide triflurosulfuron methyl in or on the raw agricultural commodities sugar beet tops and sugar beet roots.

(P & T News: June, 19, 1996)

VARIOUS

Notice of Receipt of Requests to Delete uses in Certain Pesticide Registrations

Unless a request is withdrawn, the following use deletions will become effective on September 17, 1996.

Users of these products who desire continued use on crops or sites being deleted should contact the applicable registrant before September 17, 1996 to discuss withdrawal of the applications for amendment.

Sevin brand Carbaryl - pet uses are proposed to be dropped.

Resmethrin - Commercial greenhouse uses of many formulations and different brands of resmethrin are to be deleted from labels.

(Federal Register: June 19, 1996)

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