

WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

- ◆ Employers are **RESPONSIBLE** for making sure that handlers receive the protection required by the pesticide labeling and the **WPS**.
- ◆ Handlers have a **RIGHT TO KNOW** about the pesticides used at the work area.
- ◆ The employer must provide pesticide information (MSDS or fact sheet) if any handler requests it.
- ◆ Employers must display a pesticide safety poster, information about when and where pesticides have been applied, and location of the nearest emergency facility at a central location accessible to workers.
- ◆ Employers must provide pesticide safety information before any handler works with pesticides.
- ◆ Although workers must be trained at least once every five years, the employer may train them more often.
- ◆ Employers must provide handlers with water, soap and disposable towels and a clean change of clothes at the work site.
- ◆ If a handler gets ill from pesticides while working, the employer must get them to a doctor.
- ◆ Employers **CANNOT FIRE** a handler for asking for information about WPS or for filing a complaint.

QUICK REFERENCE: HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS



PESTICIDE SAFETY TRAINING FOR HANDLERS

WPS FACT SHEET FOR GROWERS

Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
ADAM H. PUTNAM,
COMMISSIONER

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES:

Employers of handlers must make sure that handlers are trained about correct ways to handle pesticides in accordance with the Worker Protection Standards.

WHO IS A HANDLER?

Anyone who is employed for any type of compensation that applies or handles pesticides in the production of agricultural plants on a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse, and is doing any of the following tasks:

- Mixing, loading, transferring, or applying pesticides,
- Handling opened containers of pesticides
- Acting as a flagger,
- Cleaning, handling, adjusting, or repairing the parts of mixing, loading, or application equipment that may contain pesticide residues,
- Assisting with the application of pesticides, including incorporation of the pesticide into the soil after the application has occurred,
- Entering a greenhouse or other area after application and before the inhalation exposure level listed on the product labeling has been reached or one of the WPS ventilation criteria has been met to:
 - ⇒ Operate ventilation equipment,
 - ⇒ Adjusting or remove coverings, such as tarps, used in fumigation, or
 - ⇒ Check air concentration levels,
- Entering a treated area outdoors after application of any soil fumigant to adjust or remove soil coverings, such as tarpaulins,
- Disposing of pesticides or pesticide containers

YOU HAVE COMPLIED WITH WPS TRAINING REQUIREMENT IF A HANDLER:

1. Has been trained within the last 5 years as a WPS handler, even if he or she has changed employers, or
2. Is currently a certified applicator of restricted use pesticides

HOW SOON MUST HANDLERS BE TRAINED?

Handlers must be trained before they do any pesticide handling task on an agricultural establishment, forest, nursery or greenhouse.

HOW OFTEN MUST HANDLERS BE TRAINED?

Handlers must be trained at least once every five years (counting from the end of the month in which the pesticide safety training has been conducted).

WHO CAN CONDUCT TRAINING?

A trainer for pesticide handlers must:

- Currently be a certified applicator of restricted use pesticides (in any category of certification), or
- Currently be designated as a trainer of certified pesticide applicators by 8 State, Federal, or Tribal agency having jurisdiction, or
- Have completed a pesticide train-the-trainer program approved by the State, Federal, or Tribal agency having jurisdiction.



IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- ☑ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- **1-800-435-7352**
- ☑ Poison Control Center- **1-800-282-3171**
- ☑ Florida Farm worker Helpline-
1-800-633-3572

HOW TO CONDUCT TRAINING

Anyone who conducts **handler training** must:

- ⇒ Use written and/or audiovisual materials
- ⇒ Present the training orally or audio visually,
- ⇒ Present the information in a manner that the trainees can understand, using a translator, if necessary,
- ⇒ Respond to trainees' questions.

CONTENT OF TRAINING FOR PESTICIDE HANDLERS:

Specific information and instructions on the following must; be given before handlers may work with pesticides.

1. Description of where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities.
2. Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
3. Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
4. Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning.
5. Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
6. Instructions on how to obtain emergency medical care.
7. Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eye flushing techniques.
8. Hazards from pesticide residues on clothing.
9. Warning about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
10. Requirements of the WPS designed to reduce the risks of illness or injury resulting from workers' occupational exposure to pesticides, including application and entry restrictions, the design of warning sign, posting of warning signs, oral warnings, the availability of specific information about applications, and protection against retaliatory acts.

11. Need for and appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
12. The importance of washing thoroughly after removing PPE
13. Format and meaning of information on pesticide labels and in labeling, including safety information such as precautionary statements about human health hazards.
14. Prevention, recognition, and first aid treatment of heat-related illness.
15. Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides, including general procedures for spill cleanup.
16. Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards.

VERIFICATION OF TRAINING:

The employer can issue or ask for the EPA training verification card for handlers. The employer does not have to retrain that person UNLESS, the employer wants to, or has a reason to believe that the card is invalid, or knows that the card has expired.

HOW TO GET EPA TRAINING VERIFICATION CARDS:

A letter of request should be sent to **FDACS** including the name of the responsible person for WPS training in your agricultural establishment, a list of **EPA approved WPS materials** that will be used during the Pesticide Safety Training, number of cards for workers and handlers, and number of **PESTICIDE SAFETY SHEETS** in English, Spanish or Creole that you need.

FDACS. Worker Protection Coordinator, Bureau of Compliance Monitoring; UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Bldg. 164 P.O. Box 110710; Gainesville, FL 32611-0710; Phone (352) 392-4721

Trainers and employer must comply with the following requirements:

1. Maintain the following information about each handler issued a card: handler name, ID Number, WPS card number, date and location of training, name of trainer, and affiliation name;
2. Have participated in the Train-the Trainer program;
3. Keep a record of the EPA training verification card numbers issued;
4. Meet the criteria in the Federal WPS;
5. Promptly response to requests information from EPA, DACS, or Tribal agencies;
6. Provide each trainee with a copy of the **FDACS Pesticide Safety Sheet**; and
7. Provide FDACS with a report listing card number issued for each calendar year by February 1 of the following year.

WPS Materials can be obtained from:

- ⇒ Public Information Center U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW Washington, DC 20460
- ⇒ GEMPLER'S 100 Countryside Dr., P.O. Box 270, Belleville, WI 53508 Phone: 1-800-382-8473
- ⇒ UF-IFAS Publications, Building 440, Mowry Rd., P.O. Box 110011; Gainesville, Florida 32611-0810, Phone: 1-800-226-1764

MATERIALS US EPA APPROVED FOR WORKER TRAINING:

- ⇒ Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Safety chart with easel USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ⇒ Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Safety Training for Pesticide Handlers. (1993) USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ⇒ Pesticide Safety Worker Protection. (1997). Bilingual training video for workers and handlers accompanied with a trainer details brochure. 16 minutes each section. Ag. Communication Center, University of Idaho.
- ⇒ Protection from Exposure. Important Information for Pesticide Applicators. (1993). 15 minutes. Washington State Department of Agriculture Pesticide Management Division, Olympia, WA.
- ⇒ Pesticide Handlers and the Worker Protection Standards. (1994) in English and Spanish. 50 minutes each section. Michigan State University.
- ⇒ Pesticide Safety Poster. (1993). A full color reproduction in English and Spanish. USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ⇒ USEPA Heat Stress Guide. (1994). USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ⇒ Pesticide Safety Sheet. (2005). Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Tallahassee, FL.

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