



GUIDELINES FOR TRAINERS

Summary of Worker Protection Standard (WPS) Handler & Worker Training Requirements

WPS Pesticide Safety Training

Agricultural workers must be trained within the first 5 days of employment.

Handlers must be trained before any handling activity is performed.

Workers and handlers must each be trained at least once every 5 years.

Trainers must:

- Use written and/or audiovisual materials;
- Use EPA approved materials for training;
- Conduct the training orally or with written or audiovisual materials in a manner the employees can understand (using a translator if necessary) with an opportunity to answer questions; and,
- Meet one of the following criteria to perform training:
 - Currently be a certified applicator of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUPs); or
 - Currently be designated by a State, Federal or Tribal agency having jurisdiction, as a trainer of pesticide applicators; or
 - Have completed a pesticide safety Train-the-Trainer program conducted by a State, Federal or Tribal agency having jurisdiction.

WORKER TRAINING

THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM INFORMATION MUST BE COVERED:

- Where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities.
- Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute effects chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
- Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
- Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning.
- Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
- How to obtain emergency medical care.
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eye-flushing techniques.
- Hazards from chemigation and drift.
- Hazards from pesticide residues on clothing.
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
- An explanation of the WPS requirements designed to protect workers: including application and entry restrictions, design of the warning sign, posting of warning signs, oral warnings, availability of specific information about applications, and protection against retaliatory acts.

HANDLER TRAINING

THE FOLLOWING MINIMUM INFORMATION MUST BE COVERED:

- Format and meaning of information contained on pesticide labels and in labeling, including safety information such as precautionary statements about human health hazards.
- Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
- Routes by which pesticides can enter the body.
- Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisonings.
- How to obtain emergency medical care.
- Routine and emergency decontamination procedures.
- Need for and appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- Prevention, recognition and first aid treatment of heat-related illness.
- Safety requirements for handling, transporting, storing and disposing of pesticides, including general procedures for spill cleanup.
- Environmental concerns such as drift, runoff and wildlife hazards.
- Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.
- An explanation of WPS requirements that handler employers must follow for the protection of handlers and others: including prohibition against applying pesticides in a manner that will cause contact with workers or other persons, the requirement to use personal protective equipment, the provisions for training and decontamination, and the protection against retaliatory acts.

For more information contact:

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To order WPS Support Materials contact:

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