Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

LSU AgCenter
Pesticide Safety Education Program
Worker Protection Standard (WPS)

• Originally issued in 1992
• Revised in 2015
• Primarily intended to reduce the risks of illness or injury to workers or handlers resulting from occupational exposures to pesticides used in the production of agricultural plants on agricultural establishments

40 CFR Part 170
Who has to comply with WPS?

- Farms
- Forests
- Nurseries
- Greenhouses
Agricultural Use Requirements

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This Standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the statements on this label about personal protective equipment (PPE), notification to workers, and restricted-entry interval. The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted entry interval (REI) of 48 hours. Each 48-hour REI is increased to 72 hours in outdoor areas where average rainfall is less than 25 inches a year.

Exception: If the product is soil-injected or soil-incorporated, the Worker Protection Standard, under certain circumstances, allows workers to enter the treated area if there will be no contact with anything that has been treated.

PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants, soil, or water, is:
- Coveralls over short-sleeved shirt and short pants
- Waterproof gloves
- Chemical-resistant footwear plus socks
- Chemical-resistant headgear for overhead exposure

Notify workers of the application by warning them orally and by posting warning signs at entrances to treated areas.
Agricultural Employer Duties

• Follow label direction
• Handlers and Early Entry Workers are at least 18 years old
• Provide emergency assistance
• Application equipment should be in good working order and handlers should be instructed on proper use and handling
• Workers should not enter areas under an REI
• Provide any records or other information required by this part for inspection
• Provide decontamination supplies for workers and handlers
Handler/Worker Training

Who must be trained?

Each worker and handler
Requirements for Administering Training for Workers or Handlers

- Annual Training
- Training materials must be EPA approved
- Training must be provided either orally from written materials or audio-visually
- Training must be provided in a manner the worker or handler can understand
- Training location must be reasonably free from distractions and conducive to training
- Workers and Handlers must be trained prior to doing any worker or handlers tasks
Who Can Conduct Training?

- Trainer must be a certified applicator, state-, tribal-, or EPA-designated trainers of applicators, handlers
- Persons who have completed an EPA approved Train-the-Trainer course
- In Louisiana a trainer must be a certified applicator and complete an approved Train-the-Trainer course
- Records must be maintained of training for 2 years
Training Methods

• EPA/State approved training materials:
  • Videos, flip charts, manuals, slides
• Use language understood by worker
• A qualified trainer must be present during the training session to respond to any questions
Training Content

• Existing content kept and expanded
  • Worker training has 23 items
  • Handler training has 36 items

• New Training Content Required with EPA approval number
Record Keeping Requirements Under the New Regulation

- The trained worker’s printed name and signature
- The date of the training
- Information identifying which EPA-approved training materials were used
- The trainer’s name and qualification to train
- The worker or handler employer’s name

Employers must provide a copy of training record to each worker or handler upon request
- A worker or a handler may designate a representative to request, on their behalf, pesticide application and hazard information

Retain records for 2 years.
Verification of Training

WPS Training Verification Form
Workers or Handlers
Company/Employers Name: ____________________________________________

Trainer Name: ________________________ Trainer Card Number: ________________

Training Location: ______________________________________________________

Training Material Source: ________________________________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employee Name</th>
<th>Employee Signature</th>
<th>Worker (Date)</th>
<th>Handler (Date)</th>
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Download this sample at: www.lsuagcenter.com/pesticide
Central Location
Display Site

- Pesticide Safety Information (updated poster – 2018)
- Local Emergency Medical Information
  - Name, phone number, and address
- Pesticide Application Information
  - Name of pesticide applied,
  - Active ingredient(s),
  - EPA registration number,
  - REI,
  - Crop or site treated,
  - Location and description of the treated area(s), and
  - Date(s) and times applications started and ended
- Hazard information – Safety Data Sheet (SDS)
  - All products that a worker or handler might come in contact with
Posted Warning Signs

• Must be posted:
  • Outdoor Production – REI greater than 48 hours
  • Enclosed Production – REI greater than 4 hours
• Workers are NOT allowed to enter while signs are posted – unless under early-entry provisions
• Posted prior to but no earlier than 24 hrs before the scheduled application of the pesticide
• Warning signs are to remain posted throughout the application and any REI
• Remove or cover within three days after the end of the REI
Application Exclusion Zones (AEZ)

• The zone or area surrounding pesticide application equipment that exists only during outdoor production pesticide applications

• Measure of the AEZ from the application equipment horizontally in all directions.

• AEZ moves with the application equipment like a halo. Once the application is over the AEZ does not exist.

• When applications of WPS-labeled pesticide products are in progress on an establishment, agricultural employers must not allow or direct any worker or other person, to enter or to remain in the treated area or the AEZ.

• At the completion of the application the AEZ no longer exists and the treated area is subject to the REI that is specified on the pesticide label.

Credit: EPA
Size of Application Exclusion Zones (AEZ)

100 ft Minimum AEZ
• Application by aircraft
• Application by air blast
• Spray quality is smaller than medium (fine, very fine or extra fine)
• Application as fumigant, smoke, mist or fog

25 ft Minimum AEZ
• NOT applied in a manner that would require a 100 foot AEZ
• Sprayed from a height of greater than 12 inches from the planting medium using a spray quality of medium or larger (i.e., medium, coarse, very coarse, extra coarse, and ultra-coarse)
Decontamination Supplies

- Must be provided when a WPS-labeled pesticide product has been used.
- Reasonably accessible to workers and handlers.
- Outside of any treated area under an REI.

**Workers**

- **Water**
  - 1 gal of water for each worker at the beginning of the work period
  - Water quality & temperature can not cause injury
  - Water used for mixing pesticides cannot be used for decontamination without additional precautions to prevent contamination of the water by pesticides

**Soap & Single Use Towels**

- Enough for workers’ needs
- Hand sanitizers or wet towelettes do not meet the requirements for soap or towels

**Handlers**

- **Water**
  - 3 gal of water for each early-entry worker & handler at the beginning of the work period
  - Water quality & temperature can not cause injury
  - Water used for mixing pesticides cannot be used for decontamination without additional precautions to prevent contamination of the water by pesticides

**Soap & Single Use Towels**

- Enough for the early-entry workers’ and handlers’ needs
- Hand sanitizers or wet towelettes do not meet the requirements for soap or towels
- Clean change of clothing, such as coveralls, for emergency

*1 pint of water must be immediately available for each handler in a portable container

Rinse off in the nearest clean water including streams, springs, lakes, or other sources if they are more readily available than decontamination supplies.
Respirator Requirements

• When a respirator is required by the labeling, handler employer must provide handlers with the following before the handler performs any activity requiring the respirator:
  • Medical evaluation
  • Fit test
  • Respirator training

• Handler employer must maintain records for 2 years documenting completion of these
WPS Train-the-Trainer Programs

The LSU AgCenter will be providing WPS TtT Programs throughout Louisiana in 2020.

Dates to come later.

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