Handler employers must assure either that pesticide residues are removed from equipment before servicing, or that the handler performing the welding or other maintenance is informed that the equipment may be contaminated with pesticides, the potentially harmful effects of exposure, and correct equipment handling procedures.

General pesticide safety information must be presented in a way from written materials or audiovisually. Presenters must respond to workers’ questions. Certified applicators and other qualified trainers will be able to issue EPA approved certificates, good for five years on any establishment.

Cal-EPA's requirement for written, continually updated, pesticide specific training for handlers, repeated at least annually, is more stringent than the federal standard. Although Cal-EPA requires no formal training for field workers, they are protected under state-safety protective laws. Last year, California’s county agricultural commissioners conducted 2,993 field worker safety inspections, finding only 640 noncompliances, for which total penalties assessed were $8,905.

Article by Steve Sutter, UC Area Personnel Management Farm Advisor for Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties. Article seen in California Farmer, February 1993.