

SUMMARY OF PESTICIDE WORKER SAFETY REGULATIONS
California Department of Food and Agriculture

The primary purpose of the worker safety regulations is to specify safe work practices for employees who mix, load, apply, store, or otherwise handle pesticides. The main points covered by the regulations are given below:

1. Employees who mix or load pesticides with the signal word "Danger" or "Warning" shall not be under 18 years of age.
2. By January 1, 1975, employees who will work with pesticides shall have had adequate instruction and training in the use of the pesticides unless they are to be provided with close supervision.
3. Arrangements for emergency medical care for employees working with pesticides shall be made in advance and the places to obtain this care shall be posted prominently at the work site.
4. Employees who work for more than 30 hours in a 30 day period with pesticides that contain organophosphates or carbamates that carry the signal word "Danger" or "Warning" shall be provided with appropriate medical supervision that includes periodic cholinesterase blood tests.
5. Employees working with pesticides carrying the signal word "Danger" shall have periodic contact with another person at least once every hour at night and at least once every two hours during daylight hours.
6. Pilots employed to apply pesticides shall not mix or load pesticides if they contain organophosphates or carbamates carrying the signal word "Danger" or "Warning."
7. A place shall be provided for employees to change clothing and wash after working with pesticides that carry the signal word "Danger" or "Warning."
8. Facilities for personal washing shall be available at the site where pesticides are mixed or loaded when a label carries the signal word "Danger" or "Warning."
9. Employers shall provide all necessary safety equipment. Employers shall also provide clean outer clothing daily for employees who work with pesticides carrying the signal word "Danger" or "Warning."
10. Employers shall advise each employee of the necessary safety procedures he should follow and the safety equipment that he should use in accordance with requirements on the label.
11. Pesticide mixing, loading, and application equipment used by employees shall be safe to use. This equipment is subject to inspection at any time.
12. Employees who service pesticide equipment shall be properly informed and protected from the hazards of working on that equipment.

13. When pesticides are handled by employees that carry the signal word "Danger" or "Warning", large pieces of field equipment used shall have:
 - a. An external means of showing the liquid level in the applicator vehicle tank or an automatic means of preventing overfilling of the tank by January 1, 1977.
 - b. Leakproof hatches on tanks of applicator vehicles by January 1, 1976.
 - c. Shielded flexible hoses containing pesticides under pressure passing near an employee driving an applicator vehicle by January 1, 1975.
 - d. Shut-off devices on hoses carrying such pesticides from the mix tank by July 1, 1975.
14. Employees shall not hand out liquid pesticides carrying the signal word "Danger" after January 1, 1977.
15. Pesticides in soluble or wettable powder formulations shall be manufactured so as to eliminate safety hazards to employees (who will mix these pesticides) from exposure to dust inhalation by January 1, 1976 if the labels contain the signal word "Danger".
16. Emergency medical care shall be planned in advance for workers who enter fields after pesticide applications.
17. No person shall apply any pesticide in such manner that it contaminates the body or clothing of any person not involved in the application process.
18. Supervisors of employees working in fields that have been treated with pesticides shall be knowledgeable of symptoms of pesticide poisoning.
19. If an employee enters a field before the pesticide spray has dried or the pesticide dust has settled, he shall wear all protective equipment specified for the applicator.
20. Entry of a field may be permitted for an employee for any type of work after the pesticide spray has dried or the pesticide dust has settled, unless there is a specified safety interval.
21. When a safety interval has not expired, the employer shall warn employees who might enter that field not to engage in any activity in that field that might involve substantial body contact with treated foliage.
22. Warning signs must be posted for the duration of any safety interval that results from the application of: Guthion, Systox, Phosphamidon, Trithion, EPN, ethion, parathion, and/or methyl parathion.
23. Studies designed to set safety intervals to test shorter safety intervals must undergo evaluation and receive approval by the Department of Food and Agriculture if people are to be exposed.