

# RESTRICTED ENTRY

**The federal EPA is implementing a wide-ranging set of regulations that will mean significant changes in the way pesticides are handled in California, including strict re-entry rules**

Sweeping new pesticide regulations by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will affect all workers and handlers who use farm chemicals in California.

The EPA'S Worker Protection Standards (WPS) for agricultural pesticides and protective gear. They cover anyone who handles pesticides on the nation's farms, nurseries, greenhouses and forests.

Although livestock and post-harvest pesticide uses are exempt, Cal-EPA standards protect all handlers.

Implementation of the new standards will be phased in, up to full enforcement by April 15, 1994. co-operating agencies will distribute information on the new regulations until that date.

Revised labels, appearing as soon as April 21 of this year and before April 21, 1994, will specify restricted entry intervals (REIs). In most situations, workers will not be allowed in a treated area during the REI period.

The REI "until sprays have dried, and dusts have settled" regulation has been replaced by intervals generally ranging from 12 to 72 hours. Growers should check with county agricultural commissioners for cases of longer Cal-EPA reentry intervals.

Manufacturers must upgrade labels to identify the appropriate respirator, if needed, and disclose if the product inhibits chlorinesterase. Employers must guarantee handler access to the label, and assure the handler has read it, or has been informed of safety precautions, before use.\

Handlers of products labeled with the skull and crossbones symbol must be monitored every 2 hours.

Pesticide labels will include toxicity "signal words" in English and Spanish. The Spanish portion informs workers who do not understand the label to contact someone who does.

During any farm pesticide application, the employer can't allow anyone except an appropriately trained and equipped handler to be in the treated area.

To avoid inadvertent exposures, workers must be notified of any pesticide application on the establishment. If both posting of treated areas and oral notification is required, the employer must do both. Otherwise, the employer must give notice either orally or by posting signs, and tell workers which procedure is used.

Oral notification includes describing the treated area's location, the time when entry is restricted, and instructions not to enter that area until the REI has ended.

Notice isn't needed if an outdoor employer can assure workers on foot won't be in or within 1/4 mile of the treated area, or the worker who applied the pesticide has been instructed not to enter the treated area during the REI. The new standard also has rules for notification between growers and commercial pest control operators and advisors.

Employees must display certain information for agricultural workers or handlers at sites where pesticides are being used. this information must be accessible to workers (except those employed by commercial pesticide firms) and displayed when a pesticide has been applied within the last 30 days or where an REI has been in effect.

The information must include a federal EPA safety poster and specific data about pesticide applications.


It must also include the location and a description of the treated area. The product name, EPA registration number and active ingredients must be posted.

In addition, the WPS calls for notification of the time and date the pesticide is to be applied. The REI for the pesticide and the name, address and telephone number of the nearest emergency medical care facility must also be included.

Affected employees must be informed of the location of this information and allowed access. Information must remain legible.

The specific pesticide information must be posted before application if workers will be on the establishment during application,. Otherwise the information must be posted at the the beginning of any worker's first work period. The information must stay posted at least 30 days after the REI, (or if there's no REI, for at least 30 days after application) or until workers are no longer on the establishment, whichever's sooner.

Handler employers must assure handlers are trained in safe use of equipment, and that handling equipment is inspected before each day of use. Damaged equipment must be repaired or replaced.



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## A LOOK AHEAD


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 worker-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.

|            |                                  |
|------------|----------------------------------|
| April 21   | Diablo Creek Golf Course         |
| May 10     | Rossmoor Golf Course             |
| June 13,14 | CGCSA Meeting                    |
| July 12    | Supt./Pro Brookside CC           |
| August     | Open                             |
| September  | Windsor Golf Club                |
| October    | Joint meeting with Sierra-Nevada |
| November   | Institute                        |
| December   | Christmas Party                  |



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