



Information

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The Worker Protection Standard: A Checklist for University Personnel

Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 19

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Background

In 1992 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a comprehensive set of criteria called the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). This regulation applies where pesticides are used in production of agriculture plants for commercial or research purposes on farms, forests, nurseries, greenhouses, and related structures. It covers pesticide applicators, mixer/loaders, disposers of pesticide containers, and those who may be exposed to pesticide residue on the job. WPS does apply to university personnel; scientists and others responsible for hiring and/or overseeing the work of employees exposed to pesticides should understand their responsibilities. The purpose of this leaflet is to identify sources of information on WPS for university employers and employees who may be covered by the WPS.

Understanding the WPS

Several publications are available to help employers understand their responsibilities under the WPS. The most helpful publications are:

- The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How to Comply.* This manual, commonly known as *How to Comply*, explains what employers need to know about the WPS. It serves as the only substitute for the actual regulation. However, be aware that amendments to the regulation were passed in the spring of 1995 which serve to ease some of the requirements and to further restrict others. The original version of *How to Comply* is available from the Government Printing Office (Phone no. 202-783-3238; doc. no. GPO-055-000-00442-1) for

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\$8.50/copy, or from Gempler's, Inc. (Phone no. 800-382-8473; order no. HW40 or EPA-HTC for 55¢ or \$1.95/copy, respectively). It is hoped that an updated version will be developed and made available through these sources.

- Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 5: Educational Materials for the Worker Protection Standard.* This leaflet lists sources of materials available to conduct training under the WPS. It is available from and county Extension Service office or from the Entomology Department or the Department of Environmental Safety (DES) on the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.
- Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 17: Worker Protection Standard (WPS): A Checklist for Trainers.* This leaflet provides tips on how to conduct effective WPS training. It is available from any county Extension Service office or from the Entomology Department or the DES on the College Park campus of the University of Maryland.

Conducting Training

Under the requirements of WPS, people who may be exposed to pesticides and/or their residues through their work activities are classified as either handlers or workers. Both groups must be provided with certain pesticide safety training. For a complete definition of handlers and workers, see the *How to Comply* manual.

To serve as a trainer in Maryland, you must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Be a certified restricted use pesticide applicator. Certified applicators do not

need further WPS training. They may serve as trainers of both handlers and workers.

- Attend a WPS Train-the-Trainer workshop approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). Individuals who have attended such a workshop may train both handlers and workers.
- Be trained as a handler. Persons trained as handlers under the WPS may serve as trainers of workers only; they may not train handlers.

The materials listed below have been EPA-approved for use in WPS training programs. You may use any one or a combination of the materials to conduct training. Consult *Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 5: Educational Materials for the Worker Protection Standard*, for full descriptions of the materials and for information on where to buy them. All of the materials listed can be borrowed from DES.

Worker training

- Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Guide for Agricultural Workers* (handbook; EPA, 1993).
- Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Guide for Agricultural Workers* (slide set - must be used in conjunction with the handbook, as no separate script or tape is available; Univ. of Maine, 1995).
- Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Safety Training for Agricultural Workers Flip Chart* (flip chart; EPA/Univ. of Florida, 1994).
- Siguiendo el Sol/Chasing the Sun* (video; Nat'l. Migrant Resource Prog., 1994).

- Pesticide Safety Worker Protection* (video; Univ. of Idaho, 1993).

Handler training

- Protect Yourself from Pesticides - Guide for Agricultural Handlers* (handbook; EPA, 1994).

- Pesticide Handlers and the Worker Protection Standard* (video; Michigan State Univ., 1994).

- Pesticide Safety Worker Protection* (video; Univ. of Idaho, 1993).