

## NEW AMENDMENTS IN THE WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

### Pesticide Information Leaflet No. 20

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#### Background

In 1992, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began to implement a regulation intended to protect agricultural workers from exposure to pesticides. The regulation known as **Worker Protection Standard** was put into full effect in January 1995. This Standard covers pesticides that are used on agricultural establishments, including farms, forests, greenhouses, and nurseries. As with all laws and regulations, there are some areas that need to be amended to adjust to the ever changing environment of the workplace. Previous amendments to the Standard dealt with training requirements for workers and handlers, restricted entry intervals for low toxicity pesticides, crop advisors requirements, and different situations for early entry into a treated area, such as for irrigation activities. In 1996, EPA amended requirements for decontamination sites for low toxicity pesticides and warning signs used for posting. This leaflet provides an overview of the

key points of the new amendments. Both of these amendments went into effect August 26, 1996.

#### Decontamination Sites

The proposed change in September 1995 was to reduce the time decontamination supplies are required from 30 days to a range of 1 to 15 days following the use of pesticides with Restricted Entry Intervals (REI) of 4 hours or less.

The final amendment contains the following changes:

- Decontamination supplies must be available when a worker enters a treated area and will contact a treated surface.
- Decontamination supplies are required for **7 days** following the REI for low risk pesticides defined as pesticides with REIs of 4 hours or less.

- If you mix two pesticides and they both have restricted entry intervals of 4 hours or less, then the reduced time period takes effect. If any of the mixture has a restricted entry interval of more than 4 hours, then the requirement stays the same as before (30 days after the REI).

### Warning Signs

The amendment in September 1995 proposed to allow growers to substitute a different language for the Spanish part of the warning sign and to use a smaller warning sign in nurseries and greenhouses where the large sign interfered with the flow of work.

The final rule contains the following changes:

- Growers may change the Spanish part of the warning sign to the most commonly spoken language on the establishment. The sign must be in the WPS format and be legible and visible and must retain the English sections.
- Growers may use smaller signs in the nursery or greenhouse. The minimum letter sizes and posting distances in the table below must be observed. Also, these signs may be used on farms or in forests if the treated area is too small for the regular sign.

**Sign Size and Posting Minimum Requirements**

	Circle graphic height	DANGER & PELIGRO lettering height	other lettering height	Posting Distance
7" x 8" (approx.)	3"	7/8"	1/2"	50 feet
4.5" x 5" (approx.)	1 1/2"	7/16"	1/4"	25 feet