

WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS

- ◆ Employers are **RESPONSIBLE** for making sure that workers and handlers receive the protection required by the pesticide labeling and the WPS.
- ◆ Workers have a right to know about the pesticides used at the work area.
- ◆ The employer must provide pesticide information (MSDS or fact sheet) if any worker requests it.
- ◆ Employers must display a pesticide safety poster, information about when and where pesticides have been applied, and location of the nearest emergency facility at the central location accessible to workers.
- ◆ Employers **MUST** provide basic pesticide safety information before workers entry to a treated field with pesticides.
- ◆ Although workers must be trained at least **EVERY 5 YEARS**, the employer may train them more often.
- ◆ Employers must provide workers with water, soap and disposable towels at the work site.
- ◆ If a worker gets ill from pesticides while working, the employer must get them to a doctor.
- ◆ Employers **CANNOT FIRE** a worker for asking for information about WPS or for filing a complaint.

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- ☑ Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services- **1-800-435-7352**
- ☑ Poison Control Center- **1-800-282-3171**
- ☑ Florida Farmworker Helpline- **1-800-633-3572**
- ☑ National Pesticides Telecommunications Network- Network-**1-800-435-7352**

QUICK REFERENCE HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE WORKER PROTECTION STANDARDS



PESTICIDE SAFETY TRAINING FOR WORKERS

WPS FACT SHEET FOR GROWERS

Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services
CHARLES H. BRONSON,

EMPLOYER RESPONSABILITIES:

Worker employers must make sure that workers have been trained in accordance with the Worker Protection Standards (WPS) on pesticide safety. This requirement includes workers who enter treated areas on the farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse during a restricted-entry interval to perform WPS permitted tasks.

DEFINITIONS

Worker: Anyone who is employed for any type of compensation and is doing tasks such as harvesting, weeding, or watering related to the production of plants on a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse.

Early Entry Workers: Any worker who is doing permitted tasks in treated areas during a REI.

Handler: Anyone who is employed for any type of compensation and who applies or handles pesticides in the production of agricultural plants on a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse.

WHO MUST BE TRAINED?

1. Workers who enter an area where, within the last 30 days, a pesticide has been applied or an REI has been in effect, and
2. Workers who are hired to handle pesticides.
3. Workers who are hired to perform crop advisor activities.

HOW OFTEN MUST WORKERS BE TRAINED?

All workers/handlers must be trained at least once every five years (counting from the end of the month in which the pesticide safety training has been conducted),

YOU ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS IF THE WORKER:

1. Has been trained within the last 5 years as a WPS worker, even if he or she has changed employers, or
2. Is currently trained (as specified in EPA's certification and training regulations) as a handler who works under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator.

HOW SOON MUST EMPLOYEES BE TRAINED?

1. **All worker** must be trained before they have more than 5 separate days of entry into treated areas where, within the last 30 days, a pesticide has been applied or a re-entry interval has been in effect on the agricultural establishment.
2. **Untrained workers** must be given basic pesticide safety information before they enter treated areas where, within the last 30 days, a pesticide has been applied or re-entry interval has been in effect on the agricultural establishment. Full training must be provided within 5 days.
3. **Early-entry workers** who will contact anything that has been treated with the pesticide which caused the restricted-entry interval must be trained before they do any early entry WPS permitted task.

WHO CAN CONDUCT TRAINING?

A worker trainer must:

- ◆ Currently be trained (as specified in EPA's certification and training regulations) as a handler who works under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator, or
- ◆ Currently be qualified to train pesticide handlers, or currently be trained as a WPS handler, or
- ◆ Currently be a certified applicator of restricted-use-pesticides (in any category of certification) or
- ◆ Have completed a pesticide safety train-the-trainer program approved by a State, Federal, or Tribal agency having jurisdiction.

HOW TO CONDUCT TRAINING

1. Anyone who conducts **worker training** must:
 - ⇒ Use written and/or audiovisual materials,
 - ⇒ Present the training orally or audio visually,
 - ⇒ Present the information in a manner that the trainees can understand, using a translator, if necessary,
 - ⇒ Respond to trainees' questions
2. Anyone who conducts **worker training** must use non-technical terms.

CONTENT OF TRAINING FOR WORKERS:

1. FOR WORKERS:

- ⇒ Where and in what form pesticides may be encountered during work activities.
- ⇒ Hazards of pesticides resulting from toxicity and exposure, including acute and chronic effects, delayed effects, and sensitization.
- ⇒ Routes through which pesticides can enter the body.
- ⇒ Signs and symptoms of common types of pesticide poisoning,
- ⇒ Emergency first aid for pesticide injuries or poisonings.
- ⇒ Instructions on how to obtain emergency medical care.
- ⇒ Routine and emergency decontamination procedures, including emergency eye flushing techniques.
- ⇒ Hazards from pesticide residues on clothing,
- ⇒ Warning about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.

2. FOR EARLY-ENTRY WORKERS:

- In addition to the basic training, early-entry workers must receive specific information and instructions before beginning an early-entry task.
- These include:
- ⇒ Human hazard statements and precautions.
 - ⇒ How to put on, use, and take off the early-entry personal protective equipment (PPE) that is specified on the product label for early-entry task
 - ⇒ The importance of washing thoroughly after removing PPE, and
 - ⇒ How to prevent, recognize, and give correct first aid for heat-related illness.

VERIFICATION OF TRAINING:

The employer can issue or ask for the EPA training verification card for agricultural workers. The employer does not have to retrain the person UNLESS, the employer wants to, or has a reason to believe that the card is invalid, or knows that the card has expired.

You can get **EPA training verification cards** by writing a letter of request should be sent to **FDACS** which includes the name of the responsible person for **WPS training** at your agricultural establishment, a list of **EPA approved WPS materials** that will be used during the Pesticide Safety Training, number of cards for workers and handlers, and number of **PESTICIDE SAFETY SHEETS** in English, Spanish or Creole that you need.

FDACS. Worker Protection Coordinator, Bureau of Compliance Monitoring; UF/IFAS Pesticide Information Office, Bldg. 164 P.O. Box 110710; Gainesville, FL 32611-0710; Phone (352) 392-4721

And employer must comply with the following requirements:

1. Maintain the following information about each handler issued a card: worker name, ID Number, WPS card number of trainer, and affiliation name;
2. Have participated in the Train-the-Trainer program;
3. Keep a record of the USEPA training verification card numbers issued;
4. Meet the criteria in the Federal WPS;
5. Promptly response to requests information from EPA, DACS or Tribal agencies;
6. Provide each trainee with a copy of the **FDACS Pesticide Safety Sheet**; and
7. Provide FDACS with a report listing card number issued for each calendar year by February 1 of the following year.

WPS Materials can be obtained from:

- ⇒ Public Information Center U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW Washington, DC 20460
- ⇒ GEMPLER'S 100 Countryside Dr., P.O. Box 270, Belleville, WI 53508 Phone: 1-800-382-8473
- ⇒ UF-IFAS Publications, Building 440, Mowry Rd; P.O. Box 110011; Gainesville, Florida 32611-0810, Phone: 1-800-226-1764

APPROVED MATERIALS USEPA FOR WORKER TRAINING:

- ◇ Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Safety Training for Agricultural Workers. Flip chart with easel USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ◇ Worker Handbook, Protect Yourself from Pesticides: Safety Training for Agricultural Workers, (1993) USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ◇ Pesticide Safety Worker Protection. (1997). Bilingual training video for workers and handlers accompanied with a trainer details brochure. 16 minutes each section. Ag. Communication Center, University of Idaho.
- ◇ Siguiendo El Sol or Chasing the Sun. (1994) In Spanish with titles in English. 35 minutes. National Migrant Resource Programs, Austin, TX.
- ◇ Protect Yourself from Pesticides. (1994) Bilingual video. 15 minutes each section. SOS Communication, CA.
- ◇ Pesticide Safety Training for Agricultural and Early-Entry Workers. (1995) 27 minutes. West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV.
- ◇ Pesticide Safety Poster. (1993). A full color reproduction in English and Spanish. USEPA, Washington, DC.
- ◇ Pesticide Safety Sheet. (2005). Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Tallahassee, FL.

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