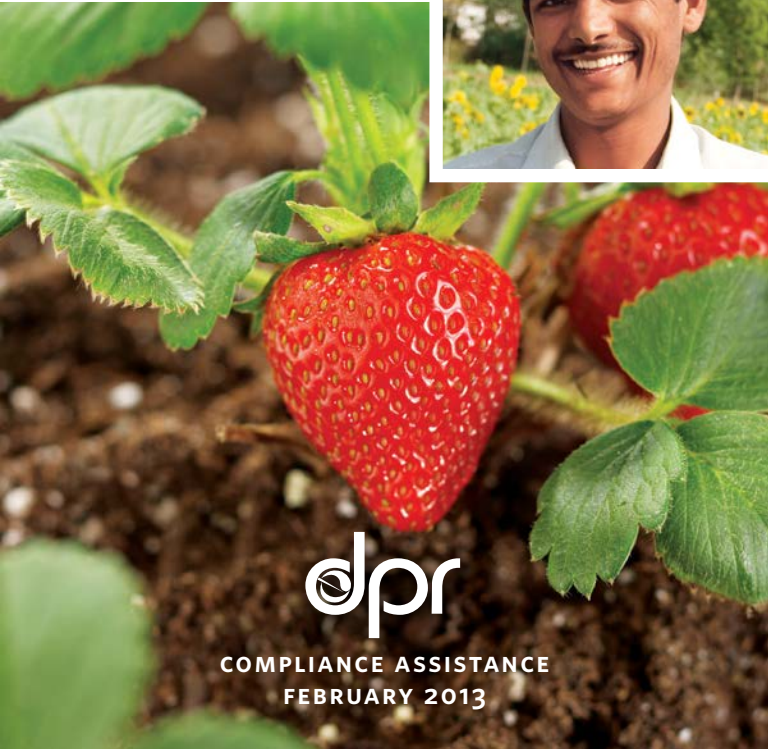


Pesticide Safety Training for

Employees Handling Pesticides

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE
FEBRUARY 2013



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Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

*California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who **handle** pesticides. This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to assure that you provide the required pesticide safety training to your employees.*

This booklet is not intended to replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you – the employer – must follow. You are encouraged to contact the Agricultural Commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See "**Definition You Need to Know**" on the back of this booklet for an explanation of "handle."

What You Need to Do

ASSURE that each employee assigned to handle pesticides is adequately trained in general pesticide safety and about correct pesticide-handling procedures **BEFORE** they are allowed to handle pesticides.

COVER the following subject areas, in a manner the handler-employees can understand, for each pesticide or chemically similar group of pesticides, to be used by your handler-employees.

- **Pesticide product labeling** format and meaning of information, such as precautionary statements about human health hazards.
- **Hazards of pesticides (acute, chronic, delayed, and sensitization effects)** identified in pesticide product labeling, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), or PSIS leaflets.
- **Pesticide safety requirements and procedures** in regulation, PSIS leaflets, MSDS, including engineering controls (closed systems, enclosed cabs) for handling, transporting, storing, and disposing of pesticides.
- **Environmental concerns** (drift, runoff, and wildlife hazards).



- **Purposes and requirements of medical supervision**, if organophosphate or carbamate pesticides with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING” are mixed, loaded, or applied.
- **Routes by which pesticides can enter the body.**
- **Common signs and symptoms of exposure.**
- **Emergency first aid for pesticide exposure.**
- **How to obtain emergency medical care.**
- **Routine and emergency decontamination procedures**, including spill cleanup and the need to thoroughly shower with soap and warm water after the exposure period.
- **Use and care of any required personal protective equipment.**
- **Prevention, recognition, and first aid for heat-related illness.**
- **Warnings about taking pesticides or pesticide containers home.**
- **Location of written “Safety Rules for Pesticide Handlers on Farms”** (DPR leaflet PSIS A-8), other PSIS and MSDS information.





→ **Employee rights:**

- ✓ To personally receive information about pesticides to which he or she may be exposed.
- ✓ For his or her physician or employee representative to receive information about pesticides to which he or she may be exposed.
- ✓ To be protected against retaliatory action due to the exercise of any of these rights.

DEVELOP a written training program for your handler-employees that describes the materials (e.g., study guides, pamphlets, pesticide product labeling, PSIS leaflets, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), slides, books, video media sources) and information that will be provided and used. Identify the person or firm that will provide the training.

- **Repeat training annually** and continually update your handler-employees training to cover any new pesticides before they are handled.

USE A QUALIFIED TRAINER to conduct the training for employees who will be handling pesticides for the commercial or research production of an agricultural commodity. The person conducting the training must be qualified as one of the following:

- A California certified commercial applicator.
- A California certified private applicator.



- A person holding a valid County Biologist License in Pesticide Regulation or Investigation and Environmental Monitoring issued by the Department of Food and Agriculture.
- A farm advisor employed by the University of California Extension Office.
- A person who has completed an “instructor trainer” program given by one of the following:
 - ✓ University of California, Integrated Pest Management Program.
 - ✓ Other instructor-training program approved by the Director of the Department of Pesticide Regulation.
- A California licensed Agricultural Pest Control Advisor.
- A California Registered Professional Forester.
- Other trainer qualification approved by the Director.



RECORD for each employee the date and extent of initial and annual required training given and the job to be assigned. **Verify** each record with the employee’s signature and **maintain** this record for two years at a central location at the work place accessible to employees.

What If You Don't Comply?

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to assure that employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employee's health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, you violate federal and State law. DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to levy substantial penalties on persons who violate pesticide laws. Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$5,000, and/or imprisonment for certain violations that have "created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment." Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.



Definition You Need to Know

Handle – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (it does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanically or by watering-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.
- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.
- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or greenhouse ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop advisor, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office or call toll free 1-877-378-5463 (1-87PestLine).

A complete set of these booklets is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's website at: **www.cdpr.ca.gov**

Dept. of Industrial Relations Heat Illness Prevention:
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html>



Food and Agricultural Code Div. 7 Agricultural Chemicals, Livestock Remedies, and Commercial Feed. 12996; **Title 3. California Code of Regulations** 6000, 6128, 6130, 6700, 6720, 6724.