

Worker Protection Standard



Pesticide Handler Employer Responsibilities

Q: Who is a Handler?

A: Under the WPS, a **Handler** is any person (including a self-employed person), employed for any type of compensation by a farm, forest, nursery or greenhouse, who performs activities related to the use of pesticides on the agricultural establishment. Handler activities include mixing, loading or applying a pesticide; disposing of pesticides; handling open pesticide containers; cleaning or repairing pesticide application equipment; acting as a flagger; entering a treated area during and application or REI, or otherwise assisting in a pesticide application.

Q: Who is a Worker?

A: Under the WPS, a **Worker** is any person (including a self-employed person) who is employed for any type of compensation and is performing activities related to the production of agricultural plants on a farm, forest, nursery or greenhouse. These activities include watering, harvesting, thinning, weeding, harvesting, or other hand-labor tasks. An employee can be both a worker and a handler, depending on the tasks assigned to him.

Q: What pesticides are included in the WPS requirements?

A: Any pesticide, including general-use and restricted-use herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, rodenticides, miticides, or bacteriacides, with “AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS” on its label. This requirement specifically states that users must comply with the WPS.

Q: If my handlers are licensed applicators, do I still have to comply with the WPS?

A: Yes. Handlers who are certified applicators must be given all of the WPS handler protections, except that they need not receive WPS training.

For more information and training materials on the WPS, call NMDA at 1-800-432-5310 or visit our website at www.nmda.nmsu.edu

See over for checklist ⇒ ⇒ ⇒

Checklist for Pesticide Handler Employers

Have you given your pesticide handlers the protection required by the WPS? Use this checklist as a reminder. Remember you may have duties to other employees. See EPA's 2005 How-To-Comply manual for complete information.

<i>WPS Provisions</i>	<i>Yes or No?</i>
Safety Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handlers must be trained before they work with pesticides or application equipment - Trained by a certified applicator or certified trainer, in appropriate language, with opportunity for questions - Training met all requirements of the WPS - Training documented (employer records or verification cards)
Before Pesticide Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handlers must have the pesticide label & understand it - Handlers must know how to use application equipment safely - Employer must inspect pesticide equipment & repair any damage
During Pesticide Applications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure pesticides do not contact (directly or through drift) anyone except trained & equipped handlers - Make sure only trained & equipped handlers are in area during applications - Monitor handlers as required (every 2 hours for pesticides with "Danger/Poison" keyword; constant monitoring when using fumigants in greenhouses)
Information at a Central Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - EPA Safety Poster - Record of pesticides applied, including name and EPA Reg. No. of pesticide, active ingredients, location & description of treated area, date & time of application, and REI - Name, address & telephone number of nearest emergency medical facility
Decontamination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soap & single-use towels, enough water to wash the entire body, a clean change of clothes (such as one-size-fits-all coveralls) located at pesticide mixing site - Emergency eyeflushing water must be immediately accessible to handlers - Supplies also where handlers remove PPE if different than mixing site
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for Handlers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make sure handlers have all appropriate PPE, wear it during handling tasks, & use it correctly - Respirators must fit handlers correctly - Clean & inspect PPE before each day of use & repair or replace as necessary - Take steps to prevent heat illness while handlers wear PPE - Do not allow handlers to wear home or take home contaminated PPE - Store contaminated PPE separately from uncontaminated articles - Store clean PPE away from personal clothing, pesticides, & contaminated areas or articles - Provide safety info to persons who clean or launder contaminated PPE - Properly dispose of single-use PPE or PPE which cannot be adequately cleaned
Emergency Assistance in Case of Poisoning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide prompt transportation to appropriate emergency facility - Pesticide name, EPA Reg. No., active ingredients, & other medical info from label available to medical personnel