

Pesticide Safety *Information*

Worker Health and Safety Branch

Series N

N-6 SUMMARY OF WORKER SAFETY REGULATIONS FOR THE NONCROP SETTING CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS (CCR) TITLE 3, DIVISION 6

The pesticide worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who handle pesticides. The term "handle" refers to any activity related to the application of pesticides. Handle includes mixing, loading, applying, repairing or cleaning contaminated equipment, and handling unrinsed containers. The Department of Pesticide Regulation and the local agricultural commissioner enforce the worker safety regulations. Important requirements of the regulations follow.

Employer/Employee Responsibilities (CCR 6702):

Employers must:

- know the regulations and requirements on pesticide labeling
- tell you, in a language you understand, about the pesticides used, pesticide safety hazards, personal protective equipment required, other equipment used, work procedures, and pesticide safety regulations
- ensure that their employees work safely and follow all safety rules.

Employees must:

- use the personal protective equipment (PPE)
- follow safety rules in regulations and on pesticide labeling.

Hazard Communication (CCR 6723, 6723.1):

Hazard communication ensures that you know the hazards you may face and what to do to protect yourself from those hazards. Through proper hazard communication, you will know about the hazards, safe work practices and where records are kept. Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflet N-8, is the written hazard communication program for handlers. Your employer must display it for you to read. Your employer must also display the following for pesticide handlers to read:

- time and date of applications
- pesticide product name, active ingredient and EPA registration number



Your employer must make available to you:

- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the pesticides used, if available
- PSIS leaflets applicable to the use situation

Training (CCR 6724, 6764):

If you handle pesticides, you must receive adequate training in the use of the pesticides. Training must occur before you begin to handle pesticides. Handlers must receive refresher training each year. Training of handlers must include the following for each pesticide or group of chemically similar pesticides (such as organophosphates):

- the meaning of information on the pesticide label concerning human health effects
- hazards of the pesticide, including acute and long term effects
- routine and emergency decontamination procedures
- symptoms of pesticide poisoning
- emergency first aid
- how to get emergency medical care
- routes pesticides can enter your body
- need, limitations, use and cleaning of required PPE
- prevention, recognition and first aid for heat-related illnesses
- safety requirements for handling pesticides
- environmental concerns
- warnings about taking pesticides home



- regulatory requirements, MSDS, and PSIS
- your rights as an employee
- location of the written hazard communication program.

Once training is received, you must sign the training record. Records of your training must be kept at your work headquarters.

You have the right to receive information about pesticides to which you may be exposed (or it can be given to your physician). You cannot be fired for exercising your rights.

Labels and Other Warnings (CCR 6602, 6618, 6674, 6678):

Pesticide labels must be available at the work site. If pesticides are transferred from their original container, the new container must be labeled with the identity of the pesticide, the signal word from the product label and the name of the person or firm responsible.

Before applying pesticides, the applicator must notify the person responsible for the property of the application. The notice must include:

- the date of the application
- the pesticide brand name or chemical name
- safety precautions required by label or regulations

The person responsible for the property must warn all persons on the property or likely to enter during application. The warning must include:

- date of the application
- the pesticide brand name or chemical name
- safety precautions required by label or regulations

Use Records (CCR 6624):

Records about when and where pesticides were used must be kept for most pesticide use situations. If your employer is required to keep use records, you have the right to see those records.

Emergency Medical Care (CCR 6726):

If you handle pesticides, your employer must make prior arrangements for emergency medical care, and tell you the location of the medical facility in case someone is sick or injured on the job. If you handle pesticides, your employer must post the following in a prominent place:

- the name, address and telephone number of the physician, clinic or emergency room able to provide care
- This information can also be posted in your work vehicle if there is no fixed work site.

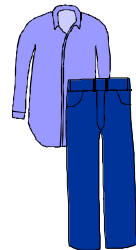
Decontamination and Hygiene (CCR 6732, 6734):

If you handle pesticides with the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING", your employer must provide water, soap and towels for routine washing. There also must be water for emergency eye flushing and washing of the whole body. This decontamination site must be within 100 feet of the mixing/loading site.

In addition, your employer must provide a place to wash and change clothing after work, if you regularly handle pesticides that have the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING." A change area is also required if you handle a pesticide for any length of time that is on the minimal exposure pesticide list.

Coveralls (CCR 6736, 6793):

Your employer must provide clean coveralls (1- or 2-piece garment that covers the body, except head, hands and feet) each day you handle pesticides with the signal word "DANGER" or "WARNING" or any minimal exposure pesticide. Your employer is responsible for washing coveralls. Washing other contaminated clothing is discussed in PSIS N-7.



Engineering Controls (CCR 6742, 6746, 6793):

Engineering controls are methods used to reduce exposure (closed system, water soluble packaging, etc.) other than personal protective equipment (respirators, gloves, etc.). Handlers may substitute personal protective equipment when using certain engineering controls. See PSIS N-3 for further explanation of engineering controls and allowed substitutions.

All application equipment must be inspected prior to use. Any repairs necessary must be made prior to use. Tanks on pesticide equipment used must have covers to prevent spills when in use.

Personal Protective Equipment (CCR 6738, 6793):

Your employers must provide all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensure it is clean and in good repair. You should not take that PPE home to be washed. Generally, the label lists the necessary PPE for the pesticide used. However, in California there are additional requirements that may not appear on labels. Some of these requirements follow:

Eye protection - Eye protection is required in the following situations:

- when stated on the label
- mixing/loading
- adjusting, cleaning or repairing pesticide-handling equipment
- ground application, except when injecting or incorporating pesticides into the soil, working in an enclosed cab or when spray nozzles are located below you and pointed downward
- hand application, except when applying vertebrate baits, using solid fumigants, baiting insect monitoring traps or applying non-insecticidal lures



Eye protection includes safety glasses (with front, brow and temple protection), goggles, face shield, or a full-face mask as part of respiratory protection. Regular eyeglasses or sunglasses **DO NOT** meet this requirement.

Gloves - Wear gloves when:

- required by the pesticide label
- mixing and loading
- adjusting, cleaning or repairing contaminated equipment
- all hand application activities (except vertebrate pest control using long-handled tools).

Gloves must be replaced or washed every day. It is especially important that gloves be washed on the **inside** as well as the outside, since residue can accumulate inside. **DO NOT** use leather or cotton gloves unless expressly permitted by the pesticide label.

Respiratory Equipment - When respiratory protection is required, your employer must adopt written

procedures for selecting, fitting, cleaning and maintaining the equipment. Employees with certain medical conditions, such as heart or a physician must evaluate lung disease, before being assigned to this kind of work. PSIS N-5 contains additional information on respiratory protection.



Chemical Resistant Clothing - Some pesticides with unusual hazards require the use of chemical resistant suits, footwear, head covering and/or apron. Use of this kind of clothing in warm temperatures may result in heat stress. Since the hazards of the pesticide will not allow its use without this kind of protection, the following rule applies if wearing the chemical resistant suit: Employees are prohibited from using pesticides with this clothing requirement when the temperature is above 80°F during the day or 85°F at night unless they are provided with cooled chemical suits. Some substitutions are allowed for chemical resistant clothing when using engineering controls (see PSIS N-3).

Cleaning/Repairing Equipment (CCR 6744):

If you clean or repair pesticide equipment, you must be fully informed of and protected from the hazards of working on that equipment.

Fumigants (CCR 6780, 6782, 6784):

Fumigants are pesticides used as a gas. A permissible exposure level (PEL) is established for most fumigants. These PELs must not be exceeded. It is your employer's responsibility to know that you are not being overexposed or to provide approved respiratory protection. Where fumigants are used, your employer must have an accident response plan that tells you what to do in case of a spill, leak or fire. You must know what is in the plan.

You cannot detect some fumigants by odor, taste, irritation or sight. For these fumigants, your employer must know or anticipate possible exposure from routine work activities. Your employer must determine whether:

- your exposure does not exceed the PEL, in which case no respiratory protection is required during those times

- your exposure will exceed the PEL, in which case approved respiratory protection is required
- employee exposure is variable (that is, there are times when the levels exceed the PEL and times when it does not).

You must wear approved respiratory protection all of the uncertain times unless there is continuous monitoring at the work site. If there is continuous monitoring, respiratory equipment is necessary only when monitors indicate air levels are over the PEL.

Two trained employees must be present when fumigating enclosed spaces. Post warning signs prior to the fumigation of enclosed spaces.

Minimal Exposure Pesticides (CCR 6790-6793):

The following pesticides are on the minimal exposure pesticide (MEP) list:

- propargite (Omite[®], Comite[®]) - agricultural pesticide
- folpet - nonagricultural pesticide
- bromoxynil (Buctril[®]) - agricultural and nonagricultural pesticide
- oxydemeton-methyl (Metasystox[®]-R) - agricultural and nonagricultural pesticide

The hazards of using these pesticides require special safety rules regardless of the toxicity category of the pesticide. These rules are:

- a change area must be provided
- washing facilities must be at all mix/load sites
- clean work clothing must be provided each day;

- a closed system must be used for liquid pesticides or liquid dilutions of pesticides
- handlers of MEPs must wear clean or new chemical resistant suits (except when using some engineering controls - see PSIS N-3)
- use respiratory protection when applying by hand or ground (except when using some engineering controls).

Exemptions:

The worker safety requirements do not apply to employees handling consumer products that are for general public use as long as employee exposure is not greater than expected consumer exposure.

When antimicrobials (used only as sanitizers, disinfectants and medical sterilants) or pool and spa chemicals are used, your employer does not have to follow these regulations, provided Cal/OSHA regulations are followed.

You may examine a complete set of these regulations at your local county agricultural commissioner's office.

 This leaflet assists readers in understanding pesticide regulations. It is not a legal document. The legal reference can be found in the California Code of Regulations, Title 3. The words "must" and "should" used in the text are not the same. The word "must" means the action is required and comes from California regulations. The word "should" means additional handling practices that are recommended to further reduce exposure.