

AGRICULTURAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD (WPS) COMPARISON OF THE MAJOR NEW PROPOSED PROTECTIONS TO THE EXISTING PROTECTIONS



PROPOSED NEW PROTECTIONS	CURRENT PROTECTIONS
Pesticide Safety Training	
Train workers and handlers every year. Stricter qualification for trainers of workers.	Train workers and handlers every 5 years.
Expand training content to include information on reducing take-home exposure. Workers and handlers would be trained on reducing take-home exposure, the hazards from residues on clothing, and warned not to take containers home.	No training provided on reducing take-home exposure. Workers and handlers are trained on hazards from residues on clothing and warned not to take containers home.
Reduce "grace period" to 2 days before full WPS training is required, expand the content of the abbreviated, pre-"grace period" training, and require distribution of information sheet listing training points.	Grace period is 5 days and there is less content to the abbreviated training, and no information sheet.
Require recordkeeping of training for 2 years.	Recordkeeping of training is not required.
Mandatory Posting of No Entry Signs	
Require posting of treated areas when Restricted-Entry Interval (REI) is greater than 48 hours. The REI is the interval after application during which worker entry is generally prohibited, except as allowed under the early entry exceptions.	Either oral or posted notification is acceptable for REIs of any length, unless the pesticide labeling requires both.
Minimum Age	
Require pesticide handlers and early-entry workers to be 16 years old.	No minimum age.
Members of owner's immediate family are exempt from this (and most other) requirements of the WPS.	No minimum age requirement.
No Entry Buffer Areas Adjacent to Areas being treated on Farms and Forests	
Prohibit entry into 25-100 foot buffer areas around the field during pesticide application on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses to protect persons from pesticide overspray and fumes. The buffer size depends on the type of application.	Applies only in nurseries and greenhouses.
Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): Respirators and Closed Systems	
Adopt the OSHA standard for respirators: fit test, medical evaluation, and training. Require recordkeeping to document completion of these requirements.	Employer must provide the respirator listed on the pesticide labeling and ensure it fits. Recordkeeping is not required.
Add specific performance standard requirements for closed systems based on California (CA) standard to permit PPE exceptions. Does not include the CA requirement to use closed systems for certain types of pesticides.	The closed system definition fails to provide specific criteria for the PPE exception.

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Hazard Communications	
<p>Require employer to maintain and make available to workers, handlers, or their authorized representatives application-specific information, labeling and Safety Data Sheets (SDS). Retain this information for 2 years.</p> <p>Remove burdensome requirement to post application-specific information at central display.</p>	<p>No requirement to make safety information available to authorized representative.</p> <p>Record keeping is not required, except, application-specific information must be posted at a central display until 30 days after the REI expires.</p>
Notification for Early-Entry Workers	
<p>In rare circumstances, early-entry workers can enter while REI is in effect. For these situations, provide notification of the pesticide application (what was applied, when and where), specific task to be performed, and amount of time the worker is allowed to remain in the treated area, along with the pesticide hazard information from the labeling.</p>	<p>Early-entry workers must be informed only of hazards written on pesticide labeling.</p>
<p>Require recordkeeping for 2 years of the notifications that are provided to early-entry workers.</p>	<p>Recordkeeping is not required.</p>
Definitions	
<p>Expand the definition of "immediate family" to more accurately reflect farm families that qualify for the exemption from most WPS requirements.</p>	<p>Currently the definition does not include family members such as grandparents, grandchildren and in-laws.</p>