

The PI's Quick Guide to the Worker Protection Standard WPS

The Worker Protection Standard is a Federal law enacted that has been put in place to reduce occupational exposure of agricultural employees to pesticide residues. This document is a quick guide to the WPS to help Principal Investigators (PI) know the requirements so they can comply. It is broken down into three sections: Information, Protection and Mitigation. If you have any questions regarding WPS please feel free to contact the UW PAT Program or DATCP.

INFORMATION

Employees can not avoid hazards if they do not know of them or understand them.

1. Stress to your employees (handlers and workers) to stay out of other PI's plots / blocks. Communication of hazards comes from the PI or their technician to their workers. Therefore, workers will not know of potential hazards in plots not controlled by their PI.
2. All workers and handlers have to either:
 - a. Annually go through the WPS training or
 - b. Become certified applicatorsBefore they can do worker or handler tasks in treated areas where an REI is in place or has expired within 30 days. Training will be provided by the UW PAT program in the spring or can be provided by any certified applicator using EPA approved materials. Training tools are available at:
<http://www.pesticideresources.org/wps/inventory.html>
Training records have to be kept for 2 years.
3. Let your workers and handlers know where the zone and farm central information location is and that it has medical emergency information.
4. Training can be provided by the PI's program if the trainer is:
 - a. Is a certified applicator, or
 - b. Has gone through an EPA approved Train the Trainer program.
5. Trainers **MUST** be present during training.
6. Provide application information to workers and handlers and **identify** this system to your employees.
 - a. This can be a binder of application information that workers and handlers have access to, or
 - b. Can be a posting in a location that workers and handlers are likely to access.
 - i. Provide: Location, products, EPA registration number, common or chemical name, date and time of application and duration of REI.
7. Keep records of pesticide applications for at least two years (State requires 3 years for atrazine and isoxaflutole products).
8. Provide access to Safety Data Sheets (SDS) of all pesticides covered under WPS. This has to be printed material or available on a thumb drive and accessible to all employees covered under WPS.
9. Certified applicators are exempt from annual training, but not other WPS requirements.

Applicators who apply Restricted Use Pesticides have to be certified and licensed by the state. License fees are waived for UW employees, but still have to be applied for.

PROTECTION

It is important that we protect our employees by providing them with the knowledge and the tools to do so.

1. When required to do tasks in treated areas (30-days of last expired REI) Workers and Handlers who will come in contact with treated plants, soil or water have to be notified of applications:
 - a. Orally, or
 - b. By posting the WPS sign ("Danger Pesticides / Peligro Pesticidas").
2. PI's have to provide all PPE required by the label.
 - a. Regular work clothes, long pants, long sleeved shirts, socks and shoes are not the PI's responsibility.
3. Assure that your handlers do not handle or apply pesticides in a way that will expose workers or other persons and abide by the application exclusion zone (AEZ).
 - a. The Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) is a halo around the application equipment of either 25 or 100 feet depending on the type of application.
 - i. 100 ft: Aerial, air blast, fine spray, fumigants, smoke, mist or fogs.
 - ii. 25 ft: Sprays of medium to coarse (volume median diameter of 294 microns or greater) spray, height of 12 inches from planting medium.
 - iii. All other applications are exempt.
 - b. Application has to stop if people who are not trained or appropriately protected are within the AEZ and can resume only after applicator can assure there will be no contact with those people. Goes into effect January 2nd, 2018

Provided by: *CALS Agricultural Research Stations; Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection*
UW - Pesticide Applicator Training (PAT) Program; and
UW - The Department of Environment, Health & Safety.

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PROTECTION

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- Assure that all handlers or early entry (entering the treated area during the REI) handlers are 18+ years of age.
- PI should provide pesticide labels to handlers and to workers upon request.
- If using products that require respirators:
 - Handlers must complete a medical evaluation.
 - Conduct fit testing and training.
 - Training records have to be kept for 2 years.

The WPS Warning sign, to be used as notification of treated areas under Restricted Entry Intervals.



MITIGATION

Accidents do happen, no matter how carefully we plan. In mitigation we try to limit the impacts of those accidents on the employee.

- Decontamination Supplies:
 - Have to be available within 1/4 mile of workers and handlers who are working in areas that have been treated up to 30-days past the last REI expiration. Also need to be at mixing and loading sites. In remote sites, supplies should be in the vehicle.
 - Contains:
 - 1 gallon per worker, 3 gallons per handler. Also at least 1 pint of eye flush for handlers if label requires eye protection.
 - Soap
 - Single use towels.
 - Something to change into (handler tasks)
- Available at each mixing and loading site.
- It is the responsibility of the PI or representative (technician, etc.) to provide transportation medical facilities when needed. Provide for medical personnel:
 - Copy of SDS,
 - Product names,
 - EPA Registration numbers; circumstances of exposure.
- Provide employees with DATCP contact information.
- PI or representative can't retaliate for employees complying with WPS.



Farm central location, Arlington Research Station. Farm wide applications are posted at this site.

Due to the nature of communication and information accessibility it is important to keep your employees out of blocks and fields that are not under your control.



Zone central location, Arlington Research Station. PI's contact information is provided for PIs working within the zone.

If you have further questions:

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