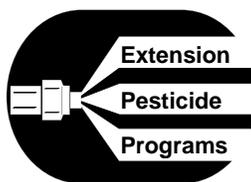




## Does the Worker Protection Standard Apply to You?

*Charles Y. Nagamine, Department of Plant and Environmental Protection Sciences*

The Worker Protection Standard is a federal regulation that requires agricultural employers to protect their employees from pesticides (including chemicals used for weed control) in the workplace. Employees on the job could be exposed to a pesticide in the form of a concentrate, a tank mix, drift, or residue.



The Worker Protection Standard applies if all three of the following are true:

- ✓ You use a type of pesticide called an *agricultural pesticide*. This type of pesticide has a label with a box of statements titled “Agricultural Use Requirements,” like the one shown below; and,
- ✓ You use an agricultural pesticide on a farm, nursery, greenhouse, or forestry operation; and,
- ✓ You use an agricultural pesticide to produce *agricultural plants*, which are plants grown or maintained for commercial or research purposes. Some examples of agricultural plants are
  - fruits, vegetables, melons, taro
  - herbs, beverage and spice plants
  - plants grown for foliage and flowers
  - turfgrasses to be transplanted
  - trees, shrubs, and groundcovers to be transplanted
  - seed corn
  - trees, shrubs, or grasses grown for lumber, pulp, fiber, or biomass

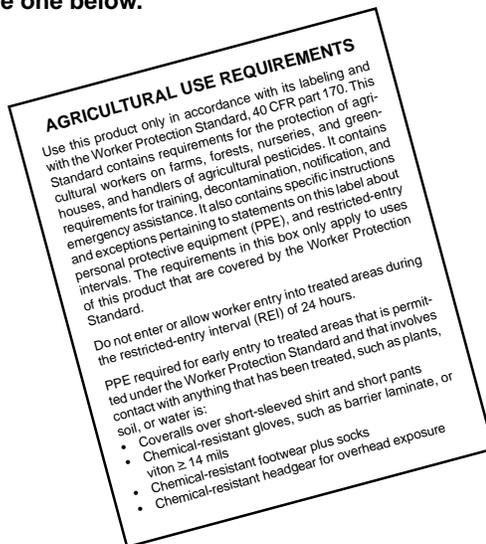
If the Worker Protection Standard applies on your farm, nursery, greenhouse, or forestry operation, you should read a document titled *How to Comply Manual*. It explains what agricultural employers must do to meet the requirements of the Worker Protection Standard. The manual is printed on pages iii–133 in a booklet titled *Reference Guide for EPA’s Worker Protection Standard* (1999). You can buy this booklet from Gempler’s™, a safety supplies company. The booklet is also included in the study packets for the following certification cat-

egories: Private applicator, Commercial 1A, Commercial 2, Commercial 3, Commercial 10, and Commercial 11. If you are planning to take a restricted use pesticide certification exam for any of these categories, you should study the *How to Comply Manual*.

Custom (for-hire) applicators, labor contractors, and pest management consultants must comply with some of the Worker Protection Standard requirements when they service a farm, nursery, greenhouse, or forestry operation where the Worker Protection Standard applies.

For more information about the Worker Protection Standard, contact a pesticide education specialist at one of these Hawaii Department of Agriculture offices: Oahu (TELEPHONE 973-9401 Honolulu), Maui (TELEPHONE 873-3555 Kahului), Hawaii (TELEPHONE 974-4143 Hilo). The area code for these telephone numbers is 808.

**Agricultural pesticide labels include a box of statements like the one below.**



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