Does the Worker Protection Standard Apply to You?

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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 categories: 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.

**AGRICULTURAL USE REQUIREMENTS**

Use this product only in accordance with its labeling and with the Worker Protection Standard, 40 CFR part 170. This standard contains requirements for the protection of agricultural workers on farms, forests, nurseries, and greenhouses, and handlers of agricultural pesticides. It contains requirements for training, decontamination, notification, and emergency assistance. It also contains specific instructions and exceptions pertaining to the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) on this label.

The requirements in this box only apply to uses of this product that are covered by the Worker Protection Standard.

Do not enter or allow worker entry into treated areas during the restricted-entry interval (REI) of 24 hours.

PPE required for early entry to treated areas that is permitted under the Worker Protection Standard and that involves contact with anything that has been treated, such as plants,

- Chemical-resistant gloves, such as barrier laminate, or
- Chemical-resistant footwear plus socks
- Chemical-resistant headgear for overhead exposure

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