



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATOR INSPECTIONS

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This fact sheet describes private pesticide applicator inspections in Colorado.

<http://www.cepep.colostate.edu>

Private Pesticide Applicator Inspections

Private applicator inspections in Colorado are conducted by the [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) Region 8's](#) Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Environmental Justice. Inspections are generally conducted to monitor compliance with the [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act \(FIFRA\)](#) and/or if an applicator or company is suspected of violating FIFRA based on information or a complaint. Both office and field inspections occur and they are generally scheduled in advance of the inspector's arrival.

Inspections cover the following:

- **Applicators** - Name, type of operation, and credentials of applicator
- **Pesticides** - The inspector will check to see if:
 - Pesticides are registered for use in Colorado
 - Application is consistent with the pesticide label
 - You are certified to apply pesticides to the sites and/or crops you are applying them to
 - Your storage facility is in compliance with Colorado and Federal regulations (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Proper Pesticide Storage](#))
 - You are properly disposing of cancelled or suspended pesticides (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Safe Disposal of Pesticides and Containers in Colorado](#))
- **Worker Protection** - The inspector will check to see if personal protection equipment (gloves, respirator, boots, etc.) are provided and are in good condition (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Making Your Protective Clothing Effective](#)). The inspector will ask if application sites are posted, if required (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Federal Worker Protection Standard](#)). The inspector will also evaluate whether or not the applicator is complying with label directions to:
 - Restrict entry to treated areas
 - Provide notification of applications
 - Post specific information regarding applications
 - Assure that workers have received safety training
 - Post safety information
 - Provide decontamination supplies
 - Provide access to emergency assistance

- **Application** - The inspector may ask to observe an actual application. The inspector will document (either through actual observation or through interviewing the applicator) whether or not the label's directions for use were followed regarding:
 - Target pest
 - Method and rate of application
 - Dilution rate
 - Crop area or object treated
 - Label precautions
 - Reentry and preharvest intervals
 - Worker protection
 - Groundwater
 - Endangered species
 - Were nontarget areas affected by the treatment?
 - Is the applicator using acceptable procedures regarding the disposal of pesticides, pesticide containers, and excess use dilutions?

What happens after the inspection?

When violations are documented, EPA Region VIII takes enforcement based on the FIFRA Enforcement Response Policy. FIFRA requires that private applicators be given a Notice of Warning prior to being assessed a civil penalty. Subsequent to receiving a written notice of warning, private applicators can be assessed a civil penalty of up to \$1,100 per violation.

References and Resources

Enforcement Response Policy for the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). 1990. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Pesticides and Toxic Substances, Washington, D.C. <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/policies/civil/fifra/fifraerp.pdf>

EPA Region 8 Office, Denver, CO. 303-312-6312, 1-800-227-8917 (Region 8 states only). <http://epa.gov/region8/>

Osag, T. 2003. Personal Communication. EPA Region 8, Denver, CO.

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