

# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

WPS Pesticide Fact Sheet #420  
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## FEDERAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

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This fact sheet describes the information required at a Central Location by the Worker Protection Standard (WPS).

This fact sheet was revised as part of the Comprehensive Worker Protection Standard Awareness Project for Colorado.

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## WPS Regulations for Posting in a Central Location

The [Worker Protection Standard](#) (WPS) was issued in 1992 by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) (EPA). This regulation applies where pesticides are used in production of agricultural plants for commercial or research purposes on farms, forests, nurseries, greenhouses, and related structures. It covers pesticide applicators, mixer/loaders, disposers of pesticide containers, and those who may be exposed to a pesticide residue on the job. Both general-use and restricted-use pesticides are covered by WPS. The regulations have exposure reduction measures that will reduce the risk of pesticide poisonings and injuries among agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.

### Central Location

WPS requires that the following information be “posted” in an accessible central location where all agricultural employees can clearly read or understand the information. If the agricultural establishment is large and supports separate workforces, the information must

be posted in a Central Location where duplicate information should be posted at each Central Location (see EPA Fact Sheet [Q&A's on Information Displayed at A Central Location](#)). By accessible, EPA means that the information must be in a location where it can readily be seen and read so that workers do not have to request the information to be given to them.

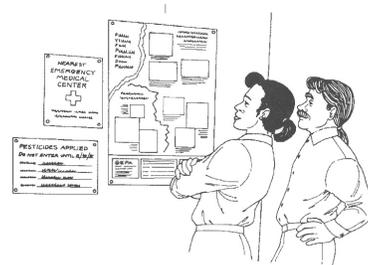
A Central Location might be the break or lunch room, the locker area or changing room, or anywhere workers may visit on a regular basis. Employers should make the Central Location known to all employees. The three items that must be displayed at the Central Location are the application list, the Safety Poster and the emergency medical information.

### Application List

The application must be recorded prior to application. The application list could be displayed in notebook form or on a board and should remain at the Central Location at least 30 days after the REI or at least 30 days after the end of the application if there is no REI listed on the label of the pesticide. It is also important that the list be displayed in the designated central location prior to the pesticide application.

The application list should include:

- A detailed description of the treated area so that workers may distinguish the treated area from others within the agricultural establishment
- Product name, EPA Registration #, and active ingredient(s) of the pesticide
- Time and date the pesticide is scheduled to be applied
- REI for the pesticide



## Safety Poster

The Safety Poster may be a poster other than that provided by EPA but is required to follow all size, lettering and language requirements. The Safety Poster should include:

- Information about keeping pesticides away from the skin and sensitive areas of the body
- Wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- To wash before eating, drinking and using the restroom
- Washing work clothes
- Following Restricted-Entry Intervals (REI) restrictions

## Emergency Medical Information

The emergency medical information must be legible and include the name, telephone number, and address of the nearest emergency medical facility. There is often space included on the EPA Safety Poster for emergency numbers and addresses. A map adjacent to the medical info might be helpful in an emergency situation for those who are not familiar with the area. Employers must update this information on a regular basis and inform employees on a regular basis.

## Definition of REI

The REI is the time immediately after a pesticide application when entry into the treated area is limited. Some pesticides have one REI, such as 12 hours, for all crops and uses. Other products have different REI's depending on the crop or method of application. When two or more pesticides are applied at the same time, and have different REI's, the longer interval must be observed. The REI is listed on the pesticide labeling under the heading *Agricultural Use Requirements* in the *Directions for Use* section of the pesticide label or next to the crop or application method to which it applies.

**Disclaimer:** The Worker Protection Standard is a very complex regulation that will require considerable study. This fact sheet is just an introduction and should not be used as a final interpretation. Refer to the complete WPS regulations in the [Code of Federal Register 40 Part 170](#).

## References and Resources

EPA's Agriculture Compliance Center. June 2005. [www.epa.gov/agriculture](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture)

Q&A's on Information Displayed at a Central Location. January 2005. U.S. EPA Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center. [www.epa.gov/agriculture/factsheets/epa-305-f-01-012.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/factsheets/epa-305-f-01-012.pdf)

*The Worker Protection Standard for Agricultural Pesticides - How to Comply, What Employers Need to Know*. July 1993. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 735-B-93-001, Washington, D.C. EPA Pesticides: Health and Safety.

Agricultural WPS Interpretive Policy: Questions and Answers. June 2004. <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety/workers/wpsinterpolicy.htm>

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