



COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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FEDERAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

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This fact sheet defines the employer/commercial applicator information exchange required 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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Federal Worker Protection Standard Employer/Commercial Applicator Information Exchange

The [Worker Protection Standard](#) (WPS) was revised and expanded 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.

Commercial Applicator Responsibilities

A commercial applicator must inform an owner/operator of an agricultural establishment when a pesticide is applied on his/her agricultural establishment.

Commercial applicator must provide the owner/operator of an agricultural establishment with:

- Location & description of area to be treated
- Time & date of application
- Product name, EPA registration number, active ingredients, & REI
- What type of notification (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Worker Protection Standard Notice of Application](#)) is required – whether oral warnings and/or treated area posting are required
- Entry restrictions and other safety requirements for treated areas (i.e., precautionary and first aid information)

Agricultural Establishment Owner/Operator Responsibilities

The owner/operator of an agricultural establishment is responsible for providing WPS protections to all employees and displaying (or posting) specific information at a central location (see Pesticide Fact Sheet [Worker Protection Standard Information at a Central Location](#)).

Owners/operators of agricultural establishments must provide information to the commercial applicator employers that they hire. The owner/operator of an agricultural establishment must inform the commercial applicator employer of any treated areas under an REI if the commercial applicator will be present or walk within a quarter (1/4) mile of that area. Commercial applicators must pass this information on to their employees.

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 2003. www.epa.gov/agriculture

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.

WPS - Information Exchange Between Commercial Handlers and Growers When the Pesticide Is Not Applied as Scheduled: This fact sheet will help you understand how to comply with WPS requirements concerning the information that commercial handlers must provide to their customers when a pesticide application does not take place as scheduled. These questions were submitted to EPA by people seeking clarification on this part of the regulation, and have been answered by EPA's Office of Compliance.

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