



# COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL PESTICIDE EDUCATION PROGRAM

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## FEDERAL WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD

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This fact sheet describes Worker Protection Standard (WPS) regulations for displaying pesticide application records.

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

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## Pesticide Application Records

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.

### Displaying Pesticide Application Records

WPS requires agricultural establishments to record all pesticide applications in the designated Central Location for 30 days after the expiration of the Restricted-Entry Interval (REI) from the time of application if there is no REI. Pesticides with an *Agricultural Use* section on the label must be recorded although EPA encourages the recording of all products.

The application records should include:

- a detailed description of the treated area so that workers may distinguish that 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

The application records must be displayed at the Central Location before an application takes place. A [sample form](#) is available. If the application does not occur, employers are responsible for notifying both workers and handlers of the changes as well as changing the information on the application record. Application changes such as timing of the application and treatment of different areas or fields should be posted in the designated Central Location as soon as the employer is aware of those changes and before agricultural employees are sent to those areas.

### Central Location

Central Location, defined by EPA, is a location on the agricultural establishment that is easily accessed by all agricultural employees. By accessible, EPA means that the information must be in a location where it can readily be seen and read so workers do not have to request the information to be given to them. The pesticide application list should be legible so that employees can clearly read

or understand the application records. 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.

### **Employer Commercial Information Exchange**

If contracting with a commercial applicator, the commercial applicator must provide an establishment with specific information about where and when within the establishment pesticides will be applied in order to assure that owners can post the application dates and times in the allotted amount of time. It is also the responsibility of the ag establishment to ask for this information if the commercial applicator does not automatically offer the information in a timely manner (see Factsheet [WPS Employer/Commercial Applicator Information Exchange](#)).

### **Central Location on Multiple Properties**

Some agricultural establishments have noncontiguous fields and multiple workforces. In this case, the employer of the agricultural establishment should establish a Central Location for each workforce where *duplicate* information is posted in each Central Location. The information at each Central Location should include the application list, emergency medical information and the safety poster. This will facilitate accessibility to information employees working for establishments that own multiple properties may otherwise have a difficult time obtaining (see also [EPA Fact Sheet on WPS - Q&A's on Central Posting on Large Non-contiguous Establishments](#) for additional information).

### **Definition of Restricted Entry Interval (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 label under the heading *Agricultural Use Requirements* in the *Directions for Use* section 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)

*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.

Q&A's on Central Posting on Large and Non-contiguous Establishments. U.S. EPA Ag Compliance Assistance Center. January 2005. [www.epa.gov/agriculture/factsheets/epa-305-f-01-013.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/factsheets/epa-305-f-01-013.pdf)

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