

HEMP

Protecting workers, the public,
and the environment.

Pesticide Use Guidance



Protecting workers, the public, and the environment from adverse effects of pesticide use in hemp cultivation is critical to the mission of the California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR).

DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners (CACs) enforce the use and sale of pesticides under Divisions 6 and 7 of the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC), and Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). These laws and regulations apply to all pesticide use and sales.

A pesticide product must be registered for its use on a crop such as hemp and labels are required to include a warning statement, precautionary statements for protecting human and environmental health, storage and disposal statements, and directions for use. By law, all pesticide users must follow these statements.

When using pesticide products in all agricultural crops including hemp cultivation, applicators must not use a rate that is higher than the rates listed on the label and follow the agricultural use requirements including method of application, restricted entry interval, personal protective equipment, and pre-harvest interval.

Hemp cultivators who are registered by CACs and apply pesticides to the crop are required to comply with pesticide laws and regulations as enforced by DPR and the CAC's.

Always read the label prior to using any pesticide.

PRODUCTS THAT CAN LEGALLY BE APPLIED TO HEMP IN CALIFORNIA

A pesticide product can legally be applied to hemp in California under state law if:

- (1) The product is registered for use on hemp
- (2) The active ingredients found in the product are:
 - (a) Exempt from residue tolerance requirements and from registration

OR

- (b) Exempt from residue tolerance requirements and use of the product would not be legally considered a use in conflict with the registered label.

NOTE: For purposes of this document, the terms "industrial hemp" and "hemp" are interchangeable.

How can I find products registered on hemp in California?

Products registered for use in California can be found on DPR's website, [Click here to visit DPR's label cue.](#)

To search products for use on hemp, choose “Product specific inquires” and then “Single site code.” The site code used by DPR for hemp is 26010.

What does “exempt from residue tolerance” mean?

A tolerance is the amount of pesticide residue allowed to remain in or on a treated food crop with “reasonable certainty of no harm.” Residue tolerance requirements are set by U.S. EPA for each pesticide on each food crop, including hemp. There currently are no tolerances established for pesticides used on hemp but progress is being made. Some pesticides are exempt from the tolerance requirement. U.S. EPA may grant exemptions in cases where doing so is found to be safe following scientific data evaluation.

To determine if a pesticide is exempt from tolerance, see the Code of Federal Regulations [Click here to visit the Code of Federal Regulations Webpage](#) or contact DPR for assistance.

Which pesticide products are exempt from registration?

Certain pesticide products are exempt from pesticide registration requirements. In other words, the product does not have to be licensed by DPR before it can be sold, distributed, or used in California. To determine if a product is exempt from registration, contact your local county agricultural commissioner or [click here to visit the CDFA County Agricultural Commissioner Offices Contact Directory](#).

Although certain pesticide products are exempt from registration, users must still comply with pesticide laws and regulations.

What is “use in conflict with the label”?

Under state law, it is a violation to use a pesticide product in conflict with the product labeling. This means you must follow all use directions on the label, such as specific crop

and use site information the product can be applied to, personal protection equipment (PPE), application rates, method of application, time of application restrictions, etc.

In certain cases, a product can legally be applied to crops or sites not specified on the label if the label language is broad enough. Such labels are uncommon and determining this can be difficult. An example of broad enough language that may be found on exempt pesticide products are: “for use on agricultural use sites including, but not limited to the following and “...other miscellaneous crops including but not limited to.”

Who should I contact to determine if use of a product on hemp would be considered a use in conflict?

DPR recommends stakeholders consult with their local CAC regarding use in conflict or other labeling questions. [Click here to visit the CDFA County Agricultural Commissioner Offices Contact Directory](#).

For more information:
[Cannabis, Hemp, and Pesticides](#)