



# Department of Pesticide Regulation



Paul E. Helliher  
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Gray Davis  
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Secretary, California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency

August 9, 2002

WHS 02-06

TO: COUNTY AGRICULTURAL COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ADVISORY ON MAINTENANCE OF ENCLOSED CABS

The Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) recently received a letter from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) concerning use and maintenance of enclosed cabs certified under the ASAE Standard S525. Subsequent to ASAE's adoption of the enclosed cab standard S525, additional information revealed potential problems, primarily with upkeep and maintenance of some of the enclosed cabs.

DPR developed the attached advisory for pesticide applicators who are using enclosed cabs. I would appreciate it if you would distribute this advisory to applicators in your county.

Thanks for your assistance in distributing this advisory. If you have any questions regarding this advisory or the ASAE standard, please contact Mr. Harvard Fong of DPR's Worker Health and Safety Branch at (916) 445-4211 or [hfong@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:hfong@cdpr.ca.gov).

**[Original signed by S. Edmiston for C. Andrews]**

Charles M. Andrews, Chief  
Worker Health and Safety Branch  
(916) 445-4222

Attachment

cc: Mr. Scott T. Paulsen, Chief, DPR Enforcement Branch  
Mr. Daniel J. Merkley, Agricultural Commissioner Liaison  
Mr. Harvard R. Fong, Senior Industrial Hygienist

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A Department of the California Environmental Protection Agency





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## ADVISORY MAINTENANCE OF ENCLOSED CABS

The Department of Pesticide Regulation recently received a letter from the American Society of Agricultural Engineers (ASAE) concerning use and maintenance of enclosed cabs certified under the ASAE Standard S525. Subsequent to ASAE's adoption of the enclosed cab standard S525, additional information revealed potential problems, primarily with upkeep and maintenance of some of the enclosed cabs.

DPR reminds you that proper use and maintenance are essential to keep enclosed cabs functioning as equivalent to personal protective equipment for both dermal and respiratory exposure. The California Code of Regulations require the following:

- When the enclosed cab is used as a substitute for required personal protective equipment (PPE), the required PPE must be immediately available in a pesticide-resistant container.
- When exiting the cab within the treatment area, the applicator must wear the required PPE.
- When returning to the enclosed cab, the applicator must remove the PPE and before entering the cab, store it in a pesticide-resistant container.

The ASAE standard makes these recommendations for use and maintenance of enclosed cabs:

### Use -

- Applicators should enter and exit the cab outside the treated area.
- If an applicator must exit the cab within the treated area, upon reentry the applicator should clean their shoes or boots to remove contaminated particles prior to entering the cab.
- If the pesticide label requires a respirator and the applicator exits the cab within the treated area, keep the respirator on (but remove all other PPE before entering the cab) for a specified period following reentry into the cab to allow the system to return to operating balance.
- Keep doors and windows closed and the fan operating at the proper setting.
- Upon exiting or entering, immediately close the cab doors to maintain system balance.

### Maintenance -

- Follow instructions for filter installation, inspection of seals/sealing surfaces, and cleaning.
- Follow cab or filter manufacturer's filter/seal replacement schedules or service intervals.
- Replace filters or seals if routine inspection reveals seal failure or near failure conditions.
- Keep the cab floor areas clean - periodically sweep and/or vacuum.
- Periodically clean the headliners and inside the cowl.
- Periodically clean the exterior of tractors used for pesticide application.

If your enclosed cab is not properly maintained, it cannot be used as a substitute for dermal or respiratory PPE. If you notice problems with your filtration system or seals, contact the manufacturer for repair.

If you have any questions regarding this advisory or the ASAE standard please contact Mr. Harvard Fong of DPR's Worker Health and Safety Branch at (916) 445-4211 or [hfong@cdpr.ca.gov](mailto:hfong@cdpr.ca.gov).

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