



## Reducing Smog-Producing Emissions from Nonfumigant Pesticide Products

### Grower Fact Sheet

#### General Information

Regulations by the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) adopted to cut smog-producing emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from pesticides went into effect in 2013. These regulations set a trigger level of emissions that, if exceeded, would invoke pesticide use limitations to reduce VOC emissions from certain nonfumigant pesticide products (Title 3, California Code of Regulations, sections 6558, 6577, 6880, 6881, 6883, 6884, and 6886). ***The VOC emissions in 2013 exceeded the trigger, and therefore limitations will go into effect on May 1, 2015.***

Sales restrictions apply to:

- High-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen
- Applied in the San Joaquin Valley.

Use restrictions apply to:

- High-VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen
- Applied in the San Joaquin Valley
- Between May 1 and October 31
- To alfalfa, almonds, citrus, cotton, grapes, pistachios, or walnuts.

#### ***What are volatile organic compounds (VOCs)?***

VOCs are gases that can combine with other substances in the air to form ground-level ozone (smog). Ozone can damage lung tissue, cause respiratory illness, and harm farm crops. Statewide, pesticides account for about two percent of all VOCs but in several regions they are among the top ten sources.

#### ***What are high-VOC products?***

As described in section 6880, the regulations apply to certain products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen. Products containing these four active ingredients are designated as either high-VOC, low-VOC, or excluded from the regulations. VOC requirements pertain only to high-VOC products. For the specific criteria used to designate high-VOC products, and list of products, go to [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov), click on "A-Z Index," then "VOC nonfumigant regulations."

#### ***What is the area affected?***

For these regulations, the San Joaquin Valley includes all of San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties and the valley portion of Kern County. Pesticide VOC emissions in the San Joaquin Valley are not consistently low enough to meet reduction goals even with prior application method restrictions on fumigants, so additional control measures on nonfumigants have been adopted.



***Why are these products and crops regulated?***

DPR included products containing these four active ingredients and applications to these seven crops because the inert ingredients in these products and their application to these crops are among the highest pesticide VOC contributors in the San Joaquin Valley. Additionally, DPR has determined that use of low-VOC products for these pesticides and crops are feasible and will ensure that the needed VOC reductions will be achieved.

**Grower Requirements**

***Which growers are affected?***

As described in section 6883, additional requirements apply to growers who make pesticide applications of:

- VOC products containing abamectin, chlorpyrifos, gibberellins, or oxyfluorfen
- In the San Joaquin Valley
- Between May 1 and October 31
- To alfalfa, almonds, citrus, cotton, grapes, pistachios, or walnuts.

***What are the use restrictions?***

In order to use the high-VOC products described in section 6883 in the San Joaquin Valley between May 1 and October 31 on the designated crops, growers must obtain a written recommendation from a licensed pest control adviser (PCA). Since use limitations have been triggered for the San Joaquin Valley between May 1 and October 31, high-VOC products containing the four specified active ingredients cannot be used on the seven named crops. For the specific criteria that determine a high-VOC product, and list of products, go to [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov), click on “A-Z Index,” then “VOC nonfumigant regulations.” Pest control dealers must inform the purchaser of these restrictions.

The only exceptions to the prohibition on use of high-VOC products are in the following situations described in section 6884:

- Chlorpyrifos to control aphids on cotton
- Gibberellins applied at no more than 16 grams active ingredient/acre
- Oxyfluorfen applied at no more than 0.125 (1/8) pounds active ingredient/acre
- Emergency exemption from registration (Section 18)
- Special Local Need (Section 24(c)) registration
- Applications required by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, or county agricultural commissioner to control, suppress or eradicate pests
- Applications with a precision sprayer that meets the criteria of the California Office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service’s Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

To be eligible for these exceptions, growers must obtain a written recommendation from a licensed PCA, and the recommendation must identify the exception, as described in section 6558.

***How do growers know when high-VOC prohibitions are in effect?***

DPR notifies interested parties through its VOC email list. To sign up for the VOC e-mail list, go to [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov), and click on “Join E-lists” at the bottom left-hand corner. Growers and PCAs share responsibility for knowing if high-VOC prohibitions are in effect. Growers are required to obtain a PCA recommendation for the high-VOC applications described above. The recommendations must comply with the VOC regulations, and PCAs are required to know if the high-VOC prohibitions are in effect.

DPR determines if high-VOC prohibitions are triggered once each year. DPR publishes a draft report of pesticide VOC emissions in late summer or early fall and it includes a comparison of the emissions to the trigger level. If triggered, the high-VOC product prohibitions described above would be implemented for the upcoming May-October period, and remain in effect for at least two years. The emissions for May-October 2013 exceeded the trigger level, so high-VOC prohibitions will begin on May 1, 2015.

***When are the grower requirements in effect?***

The requirement to obtain a PCA recommendation became effective on May 1, 2014, and is in effect every year during May 1 to October 31. The high-VOC prohibitions will go into effect May 1, 2015 for the May 1–October 31 period. The use prohibitions will be in effect for at least two years.

**Additional Information – Contact Person**

Additional information is available at DPR’s website: [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov). Click on “A-Z Index” then “Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Pesticides Project.”

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