



## **Overview of Changes to Worker Safety Regulations in California\***

\*in alignment with revisions to the federal Worker Protection Standard

Safety requirements that did not change are not included in this document. Please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner or visit our website at [www.cdpr.ca.gov](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov) if you have any questions.

### **1) Changes to Fieldworker and Handler Safety Training**

- Fieldworker training is required annually. The employer must maintain the training record for two years and must provide the record to the fieldworker upon request.
- Handler and fieldworker safety training content has been expanded to include additional topics. The newly required topics for handlers and fieldworkers can be found in Title 3, California Code of Regulations (3 CCR) 6724 and 3 CCR 6764, respectively.
- For handlers applying pesticides for the commercial or research production of an agricultural commodity and/or fieldworkers working in treated fields:
  - The location of the training must be “reasonably free from distraction”.
  - The trainer must be present throughout the training.
  - The safety training record must include the employee’s name, the employer’s name, the title(s) and source(s) of the training materials used, and the trainer’s name and qualifications.

### **2) Changes to Posting, Notification, and Hazard Communication Requirements**

- With some exceptions, posting of treated areas is required:
  - For any restricted entry interval (REI) greater than 48 hours as determined by the product label;
  - For an application to an entire enclosed space (i.e., greenhouse); or
  - For an application to a portion of an enclosed space with an REI greater than 4 hours.
- A pest control business providing a notice of application for the production of an agricultural commodity must include the application start time and estimated end time. If there are any changes to the notice, the business must assure that the operator of the property receives notice of this change prior to the application. The notice of completion must have the date(s) and times(s) that the application started and ended. The grower must maintain a written record of the notice of completion with the information provided by the business.
- Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-8 is now also required to be posted at all permanent decontamination facilities and at those servicing 11 or more handlers. Additionally, the PSIS A-9 posting is now also required at all permanent decontamination facilities and at those servicing 11 or more fieldworkers.
- Any changes to emergency medical care information on the PSIS A-8 or A-9 now must be updated within 24 hours of the change.



- Application-specific display for handlers or fieldworkers must now include the crop/site treated, start and end time of application, and safety data sheets (SDS). The employer must retain these records for two years.
- Prior to conducting early entry activities, the employee must now be informed orally of the location of their work activities, the pesticide(s) applied, the date and time the REI begins and ends, and the location of the PSIS A-8 and A-9.
- An employee (handler or fieldworker) representative requesting records must do so in writing and follow specific procedures.

### **3) Minimum Age Requirement**

- Pesticide handlers working in the commercial or research production of an agricultural commodity and early entry workers must be at least 18 years old.

### **4) Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and Decontamination Facilities**

- Decontamination facility requirements have been updated and can be found in 3 CCR 6734 for handlers, 3 CCR 6768 for fieldworkers, and 3 CCR 6771 for early entry employees:
  - At the beginning of the work day, handlers and early entry employees must have at least three gallons of water per employee and fieldworkers must have at least one gallon of water per employee.
  - Employees must now be informed of the location of the decontamination facility prior to beginning work.
  - If protective eyewear is required by the labeling, an eyewash station must be available for handlers at the mix/load site.
  - Hand sanitizers, gels, or moist towelettes cannot be substituted for decontamination supplies.
- If chemical-resistant gloves are brought into an aircraft cockpit, they must be stored in an enclosed chemical-resistant container.
- Employees of Pest Control Advisors and registered professional foresters must now comply with emergency medical posting, decontamination facilities, and PPE requirements for their employees.
- When using a closed system for dry pesticide product formulations, certain PPE exemptions are now allowed when used under the circumstances described in 3 CCR 6746(d) and (g).

### **5) Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ)**

- No employer shall direct or allow any non-handler into the AEZ, as specified below:
  - The AEZ is a 100 ft. or 25 ft. radius around application equipment for outdoor production depending on the application method described in 3 CCR 6762(c)(1).
  - The AEZ for an enclosed space production depends on the application method, label requirements, and spray quality, as described in 3 CCR 6762(c)(2).

## 6) Additional Changes

- When emergency medical personnel treat handlers or fieldworkers, the employer must provide the medical personnel with the SDS, product name, EPA registration number, and the circumstances of the exposure.
- For the production of an agricultural plant commodity, the owner/operator of mix/load or application equipment must provide specific information to any company cleaning, servicing, or repairing the equipment. The information that must be provided can be found in 3 CCR 6744(b)(1).
- “Enclosed Space” is a new term that replaces the term “greenhouse” and includes additional structures, such as polyhouses, mushroom houses, and hoop houses.
- For the production of an agricultural commodity, employees in an enclosed area during a fumigation must now maintain continuous visual or voice contact with another person stationed immediately outside of the enclosed area.