


Pesticide Personal Protective Equipment

EMPLOYER RESPONSIBILITIES



COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE
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1 Pesticide Safety Training for Employees Handling Pesticides

2 Pesticide Safety Training for Fieldworker-Employees Working in Treated Fields

3 Pesticide Emergency Medical Care

4 Pesticide Decontamination Facilities

5 Pesticide Personal Protective Equipment

6 Display of Required Information

7 Pesticide Worker Safety Regulations



Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR)

*California's worker safety regulations specify safe work practices for employees who **handle** pesticides or work in **treated fields** (**fieldworkers, early-entry fieldworkers**). This booklet summarizes your responsibilities as an employer to assure that you provide the required personal protective equipment for your employees.*

This booklet does not replace product label information, the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) leaflets, or the California Code of Regulations. It is a reference tool that summarizes specific regulatory requirements and responsibilities that you – the employer – must follow. You are encouraged to contact the agricultural commissioner's office in the county or counties where you operate for any additional requirements specific to your area.

See "**Definitions You Need to Know**" at the back of this booklet for explanations of highlighted words.

What You Need to Do

COVER the following subjects in a manner the handler-employees and early entry fieldworker-employees can understand:

- Pesticides used.
- Pesticide safety hazards.
- Personal protective equipment.
- Other equipment used.
- Work procedures.
- Pesticide worker safety regulations.



PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) may be required by pesticide product labeling, regulations, or restricted material permit conditions.

ASSURE that all PPE is inspected before each day of use for leaks, holes, tears, or worn parts.

- Repair or discard and replace damaged or heavily contaminated PPE.

ASSURE that employees wear appropriate protective eyewear when mixing, loading, or applying pesticides by hand or ground rig, and when exposed to application, mixing, or loading equipment that contains or is contaminated with pesticide.

ASSURE that protective eyewear provides brow and temple protection that conforms to the curvature of the face and side protection to the eyes and marked as meeting the American National Standards Institute's Standards for Occupational and Educational Personal Eye and Face Protection Devices (ANSI Z87.1-2010).

Use of a respirator with a full-face mask will satisfy the protective eyewear requirement, unless it is prohibited by pesticide labeling.

ASSURE that appropriate chemical-resistant gloves are worn when required by pesticide product labeling, regulations, or permit conditions; and whenever employees are mixing, loading, or applying pesticides by hand or ground rig, and when they are exposed to application equipment that contains or is contaminated with pesticide.

If the barrier material is specified by a category on the product labeling, the required glove material must be:

dpr Glove Category Selection Key

Label code	Materials Required by Law	Material Code
A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	1 Laminate
B	1,2	2 Butyl
C	1,2,3,4,7,8	3 Nitrile
D	1,2	4 Neoprene
E	1,3,4,8	5 Natural
F	1,2,3,8	6 Polyethylene
G	1,8	7 PVC
H	1,8	8 Viton

All but Laminate and Polyethylene must be 14 mils or thicker.

dpr Clave para Selección de Categoría de Guante

Código en la Etiqueta	Materiales Requeridos Bajo la Ley	Código del Material*
A	1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8	1 Laminate
B	1,2	2 Butyl
C	1,2,3,4,7,8	3 Nitrile
D	1,2	4 Neoprene
E	1,3,4,8	5 Natural
F	1,2,3,8	6 Polyethylene
G	1,8	7 PVC
H	1,8	8 Viton

Todos, menos Laminate y Polyethylene deben ser de 14 mils o más gruesos.
 * El Material está en Inglés, cómo lo requiere la etiqueta.

ASSURE that if chemical-resistant gloves are required by pesticide labeling without specification of a barrier material or category, the barrier material may be any listed above.

All gloves must be 14 mils or thicker except:

- Laminate and polyethylene materials; or
- When chemical-resistant gloves are used to make fine adjustments to equipment or other activities that require high dexterity and motor control skill, the gloves must be made of an appropriate barrier material, as listed above, used only once for a maximum of 15 minutes, and then discarded.

Separable glove liners made of cotton or other absorbent material may be worn under chemical-resistant gloves unless expressly prohibited by labeling. The liners must not extend beyond the end of the glove, and liners must be disposed of at the end of the workday, or immediately if any portion of the liner comes in contact with pesticide.

Leather gloves may be worn over chemical-resistant gloves when required by working conditions. Once leather gloves have been used for this purpose, they must only be worn over chemical-resistant gloves.

If chemical-resistant gloves are brought into the cockpit of an aircraft that has been used to apply pesticides, the gloves must be stored in an enclosed chemical-resistant container.

ASSURE that you provide the PPE required by pesticide labeling and the worker safety regulations for the particular handling or early-entry activity:



- Employees wear the required PPE until the handling or early-entry activity is complete, and
- Employees use the required PPE correctly.

KNOW when certain label-required PPE may be substituted when using certain engineering controls (closed-systems, enclosed cabs, soluble bags).

ASSURE that you provide a clean, pesticide-free place for employees to store any personal clothing not in use while at work handling pesticides.

ASSURE that you take all precautions to prevent heat-related illness while the PPE is worn.

PROVIDE a clean-designated area where employees can remove their PPE at the end of their exposure period.

PROVIDE clean towels, soap, and sufficient water to allow for thorough washing.

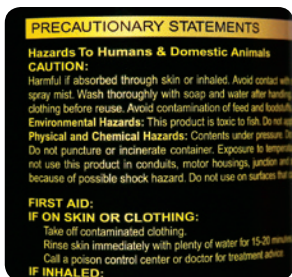


ASSURE that PPE remains under your control and that employees do not take home potentially contaminated PPE.

ASSURE that any PPE to be reused is clean before each day of reuse according to instructions from the PPE manufacturer, or absent any instructions, wash in detergent and hot water:

- Potentially contaminated PPE is kept and washed separately from other clothing and laundry, and
- Clean PPE is either dried thoroughly before being stored or is put in a well-ventilated place to dry.

ASSURE that any person or firm assigned or hired to clean or repair potentially contaminated PPE is protected and informed of the hazards of the pesticides they may encounter.



ASSURE that employees use approved respiratory equipment when handling pesticides where respirators are required by label, restricted material permit condition, or regulation.

ASSURE that in any workplace where respirators are required by label, restricted material permit condition, regulation, or employer, a written respiratory protection program is established with work site-specific procedures. **Update** the program whenever changes in workplace conditions affect respirator use.

ASSURE that the respiratory protection program provides:

- Procedures for selecting respirators;
- Medical evaluations of employees required to use respirators;
- Fit testing procedures for tight-fitting respirators;
- Procedures for proper use of respirators in routine and reasonably foreseeable emergency situations;
- Procedures and schedules for cleaning, disinfecting, storing, inspecting, repairing, discarding, and managing respirators;
- Procedures to ensure adequate air quality, quantity, and flow of breathing air for atmosphere-supplying respirators;

- Training of employees in the respiratory hazards to which they are potentially exposed during routine and emergency situations, including Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health atmospheres, if appropriate; and
- Training of employees in the proper use of respirators, including putting on and removing them, limitations on their use, and their maintenance.

ASSURE that required respirators, training, and medical evaluations are provided **at no cost to the employee.**

What If You Don't Comply?

The California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) and the County Agricultural Commissioners enforce California pesticide laws and regulations. It is your responsibility to assure that employees handle and use pesticides in accordance with the requirements of law, regulations, and pesticide product labeling requirements.

If you follow the worker safety requirements, you protect your employees' health, the environment, and yourself. If you do not comply, you violate federal and state law. DPR and the County Agricultural Commissioners have the authority to levy substantial penalties on persons who violate pesticide laws.

Penalties range from \$50 for minor violations to \$5,000, and/or imprisonment for certain violations that have “created or reasonably could have created a hazard to human health or the environment.” Also, persons who hold a license or certificate issued by DPR and who are found in violation can have their license or certificate suspended or revoked.



Definitions You Need to Know

Handle – means mixing, loading, transferring, applying (including chemigation), or assisting with the application (including flagging) of pesticides (it does not include: local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties). Also, it includes:

- Incorporating (mechanically or by watering-in) pesticides in the soil.
- Maintaining, servicing, repairing, cleaning, or handling equipment used in these activities that may contain residues.
- Working with opened (including emptied but not rinsed) containers of pesticides.
- Adjusting, repairing, or removing treatment site coverings.

- Entry into a treated area during any application or before the inhalation exposure level listed on pesticide product labeling has been reached, or enclosed space ventilation criteria have been met.
- Performing the duties of a crop adviser, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of plants, or taking samples during an application or during any restricted entry interval listed on pesticide product labeling.

Treated Field – means a field that has been treated with a pesticide or had a restricted entry interval in effect within the last 30 days. It includes associated roads, paths, ditches, borders, and headlands, if the pesticide was also directed to those areas (it does not include areas inadvertently contaminated by drift or overspray).

Fieldworker – means any person who, for any kind of compensation, performs cultural activities in a field. It does not include performing tasks as a crop adviser, including field checking or scouting, making observations of the well-being of the plants, or taking samples, nor does it include local, state, or federal officials performing inspection, sampling, or other similar duties.

Early-Entry – means entry into a treated field or other area after the pesticide application is complete, but before the restricted entry interval or other restrictions on entry for that pesticide have expired.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact your local County Agricultural Commissioner's office or call toll free 1-877-378-5463 (1-87PestLine).

A complete set of these booklets is available online from the California Department of Pesticide Regulation's website at: **www.cdpr.ca.gov**

Dept. of Industrial Relations Heat Illness Prevention: **www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/heatillnessinfo.html**



Food and Agricultural Code Div. 7 Agricultural Chemicals, Livestock Remedies, and Commercial Feed. 12996; Title 3. California Code of Regulations 6000, 6128, 6130, 6738, 6738.1, 6738.2, 6738.3, 6738.4, 6739, 6769, 6770, 6771.

