

# Appendix XVIc: Worker Protection Standard Training Guide

Department Safety Program, Crop and Soil Sciences, Washington State University

## WORKER PROTECTION STANDARD TRAINING GUIDE FOR "WORKERS" ONLY (WPS; WAC 296-307)

(4 pages)

SPILLMAN FARM, WSU

Worker Protection Standard training is required for ALL EMPLOYEES who will be working in an area where pesticides are in use under the following circumstances:

- \* the field within a 1/4 mile range;
- \* within 30 days after the application of ANY pesticide in the field, greenhouse or growth chamber or any other site.

A "WORKER" is anyone who: (1) is employed (including self-employed) for any type of compensation and (2) is doing tasks such as harvesting, weeding, or watering, relating to the production of agricultural plants on a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse.

Washington State University (and/or your supervisor) has responsibility and must do the following:

1. There is NO retaliation against a "WORKER" or "HANDLER" who attempts to comply with the WPS.
2. ALL Information for WPS must be at a Central Location. Inform "WORKERS" or "HANDLERS" where the information is posted, and allow them access. The central location is: SAFETY BULLETIN Board in Spillman Farm OFFICE.

Information must include:

- i. EPA WPS safety poster,
  - ii. name, address, and telephone number of the nearest emergency medical facility,
  - iii. the following facts about each pesticide:
    - \* product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredient(s),
    - \* location and description of treated area,
    - \* time and date of application, and Restricted Entry Interval (REI; time when entry to treated area begins).
  - iv. Inform "WORKERS" if emergency facility information changes and update the posted information.
  - v. Keep the posted information legible.
3. Training must be given to all "WORKERS", and:
    - occur before work is began and at least once every 5 yrs.
    - use written and audio visual materials and
    - have a certified "HANDLER" of WPS, "Trainer" for WPS, or a person who has the applicator license: "Public Operator License For Pesticide Use" conduct the training. Oral presentation must be in a manner the employees can understand, using easily understood terms, and respond to questions.
    - all trained WPS employees must receive Worker Protection Standard Training Verification Card" upon completion of

the training. This is a WSDA produced card ONLY.  
(See Farm manager for details.)

4. Provide a decontamination site:

- (A) Establish a decontamination site within 1/4 mile of all "WORKERS" and HANDLERS. Supply:
  - (a) enough water for routine and emergency whole-body washing and for eyeflushing,
  - (b) plenty of soap and single-use towels,
  - (c) a clean coverall (for HANDLERS)
- (B) Provide water that is safe and cool enough for washing, for eyeflushing, and for drinking. Do not use tank-stored water that is also used for mixing pesticides.
- (C) Provide the same supplies at each mixing and loading site.
- (D) Have at least 1 pint eyeflush water immediately accessible to each HANDLER.
- (E) Do not put "WORKER" decontamination sites in areas being treated or under an REI.
- (F) If within an area being treated, protect decontamination supplies for HANDLERS in enclosed containers.
- (G) At least 1 gallon of water must be available for each "WORKER" and at least 3 gallons for each HANDLER. Eyeflush must be carried by the HANDLER if the pesticide label requires eye protection.
- (H) IF tractor/truck mounted sprayers at the site have properly installed portable shower systems, the requirement for a HANDLER decontamination site within 1/4 mile is met.

5. Provide Employer Information Exchange

Before any application, commercial HANDLER employers must make sure the operator of the agricultural establishment where a pesticide will be applied is aware of:

- (1) location and description of area to be treated,
- (2) time and date of application,
- (3) product name, EPA registration number, active ingredient(s), and REI,
- (4) whether the product label requires both oral warnings and treated area posting,
- (5) all other requirements on labeling for "WORKERS" or other people.
- (6) Operators of agricultural establishments must make sure any commercial pesticide establishment operator they hire is aware of:
  - (a) specific location and description of all areas on the agricultural establishment where pesticides will be applied or where an REI will be in effect while the commercial HANDLER is on the establishment,
  - (b) restrictions on entering those areas.

Most of this requirement is met by posting notices on a Central Display Board. Oral warnings may still need to be given if the pesticide label requires. Cooperators and farmers need to be notified by the operators of the agricultural establishment and give notification about pesticide applications in a manner consistent with the labeling requirements.

6. Provide Emergency Assistance:

When any HANDLER or "WORKER" may have been poisoned or injured by pesticides:

- (1) Promptly make transportation available to an appropriate medical facility.
- (2) Promptly provide to the victim and to medical personnel:
  - (a) product name, EPA registration number, and active ingredient(s),
  - (b) all first aid and medical information from label,
  - (c) description of how the pesticide was used,
  - (d) information about victim's exposure.

7. Restrictions During Applications;

- (1) In areas being treated with pesticides, allow entry only to appropriately trained and equipped HANDLERS.
  - (2) Keep nursery WORKERS at least 100 feet away from nursery areas being treated.
8. Restricted-Entry Intervals (REI's)
- During any REI, do not allow WORKERS to enter a treated area and contact anything treated with the pesticide to which the REI applies. "WORKERS" are only allowed into a treated area during an REI if they will NOT touch or be touched by any pesticide residues including:
- (a) on plants, including both agricultural plants and weeds,
  - (b) on or in soil or planting medium,
  - (c) in water, such as irrigation water, or water standing in drainage ditches or puddles,
  - (d) , if pesticide remains suspended in air after application, such as after fumigation or after a smoke, mist, fog, or aerosol application. Personal protective equipment does NOT qualify as avoiding contact
9. Notice About Applications.
- (a) 24 HR (min.) advance notice (email list).
  - (b) Raise the "Chemical Spray in Progress" sign at entrance.
  - (c) Orally warn WORKERS and post treated areas if the label requires.
  - (d) Otherwise, either orally warn WORKERS or post entrances to treated areas. Tell WORKERS which method is in effect.
  - (e) Post all greenhouse applications.
10. Posted Warning Signs
- (a) Post legible 14" x 16" WPS-design signs just before application; keep posted during REI; remove before WORKERS enter and within 3 days after the end of the REI.
  - (b) Post signs so they can be seen at all entrances to treated areas. This includes field plots on and off State owned land.
11. Oral Warnings.
- (a) Before each application, tell WORKERS who are on the establishment (in a manner they can understand):
    - (i) location and description of treated area,
    - (ii) REI and not to enter during REI.
  - (b) WORKERS who enter the establishment after application starts must receive the same warning at the start of their work period.
12. When chemical application occurs:
- (a) Do not allow HANDLERS to apply a pesticide so that it contacts, directly or through drift, anyone other than trained/PPE-equipped HANDLERS.
  - (b) Make sight or voice contact at least every 2 hours with anyone handling pesticides labeled with a skull and crossbones.
13. A "WORKER" MUST NOT:
- use RESTRICTED USE chemicals
  - apply ANY pesticides by power mechanical means.
  - use pesticides in the production of agricultural plants on a farm, forest, nursery, or greenhouse, AND do any of the following tasks:
    - (1) mix, load, transfer, or apply pesticides,
    - (2) handle opened containers of pesticides,
    - (3) act as a flagger,

- (4) clean, handle, adjust, or repair the parts of mixing, loading, or application equipment that may contain pesticide residues,
- (5) assist with the application of pesticides, including incorporating the pesticide into the soil after the application has occurred,
- (6) enter a greenhouse or other enclosed area after application and before the inhalation exposure level listed on the product labeling has been reached or one of the WPS ventilation criteria has been met to:
  - (a) operate ventilation equipment,
  - (b) adjust or remove coverings such as tarps, used in fumigation,
  - (c) check air concentration levels
- (7) enter a treated area outdoors after application of any soil fumigant to adjust or remove soil coverings, such as tarpaulins,
- (8) perform tasks as a crop advisor,
- (9) dispose of pesticides or pesticide containers that have not been cleaned.

If you will perform any of the tasks listed in #13 than you will need further training before you perform the work since the WPS considers your work "Handler" or "Pesticide User" type of work. ("Handler" or "Pesticide User" training is performed by a different agency within the State, see your supervisor.)

employee	date	supervisor	date

reference: Washington Pesticide Laws and Safety. A guide to safe use and handling for applicators and dealers. CA Ramsay and GLThomason (eds). WSU Cooper Ext. Pubs. Pullman WA, 1997.