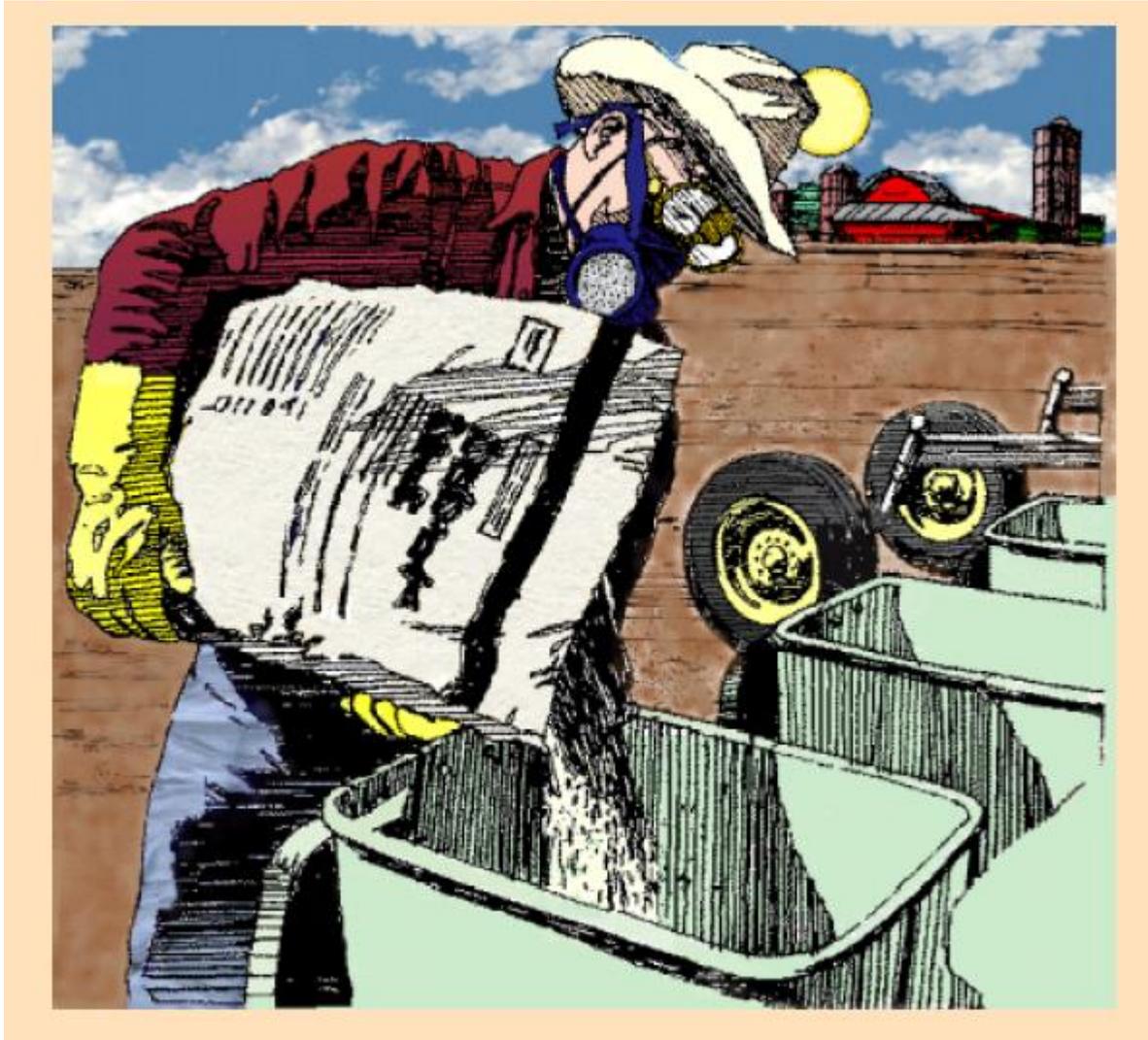


Grower's Guide



**Santa Clara County
Division of Agriculture**



TO OUR GROWERS:



This guide provides general information on what is required of a grower who uses pesticides or has pesticides applied by a pest control company for the production of agricultural or ornamental commodities.

Specific or detailed information can be provided by your County Agricultural Biologist. Information is also contained in the Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) A-1 through A-11, which can be obtained from your area biologist.

Remember:

This is a general guide. Laws and regulations are periodically updated. There is no substitute for knowing the laws & regulations that govern pesticide use. If you have questions, contact your agricultural pesticide inspector.

For more information and updates, you can access these websites:

County Agricultural Commissioner: www.sccagriculture.org

California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR): <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov>

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THIS GUIDE PROVIDES INFORMATION **ON THE FOLLOWING TOPICS:**

- Page 3 - Basic Requirements
- Page 4 - Record Keeping
- Page 4 - Labels
- Page 5 - Non-Restricted vs. Restricted Materials
- Page 6 - Employee Training
- Page 7 -
 - Minimum Age
 - Application Exclusion Zones
 - Required Wash Water
 - Required Eyewash
- Page 8 - Field Posting
- Page 9 - Safety Equipment
 - Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Respirator Requirements Page 10
- Page 11 - Medical Care Information
- Page 12 –
 - Decontamination Facilities
 - Equipment Maintenance
- Page 13 – Equipment & Container Storage
- Page 14 – Air Gap Requirement



Basic Requirements

Whether you apply pesticides yourself, or you hire a licensed Pest Control Operator to apply pesticides to your property or production commodity,

You **MUST** each and every year:

OBTAIN AN OPERATOR ID NUMBER

Or if you intend to use a California Restricted Pesticide:

OBTAIN A RESTRICTED MATERIALS PERMIT



Owners (employers) who apply pesticides are exempt from worker safety regulations; however, you **must** comply with **ALL** label requirements including ones specifying personal protective equipment (PPE).

Owners **must** meet the following requirements regardless of who applies the pesticides:

- Record Keeping
- Use Reporting
- Following Label Directions (the "Label is the Law")
- Worker Safety
- Environmental Safety

All of these topics are discussed in the Pesticide Safety Information Series which is available online or your ag biologist can provide to you.

Record Keeping



You **must** keep a copy of your Operator ID and/or Restricted Materials Permit for two years.

It is the responsibility of the owner/employer to submit records reporting **all** insecticide, herbicide, and rodenticide applications.

You **must** send these pesticide use reports (PUR's) to the agricultural commissioner by the 10th day of the month following the month the pesticide application was made. (For example, June applications must be reported by July 10.) Maintain a record of these reports for 2 years and provide them to the director or commissioner upon request.

It is the employer's responsibility to keep a copy of the training records, written program, Safety Data Sheets (SDS), application specific information postings, and use reports for 2 years, at a central location at the workplace. It **must** be accessible by employees.

If a pest control company does the work, then they are responsible for reporting the use. They **must** report the application within 7 days. A copy of the report must be mailed to the operator of the property within 30 days of the completion of the pesticide application. Retain these for 2 years also. Any recommendation made by a licensed Agricultural Pest Control Adviser must be in writing. A recommendation made by the owner or property operator is not required to be in writing.

Labels

A copy of the registered label **must** be available at the work site.

Special local needs (SLN) and Section 18 registrations are supplemental labeling instructions for additional uses authorized by DPR. If a Section 18 or SLN label is being used, then a copy of that label **must** also be at the use site.

If a material has an **EPA Registration Number** on the label, it is a pesticide. This includes all pesticides (including sulfur and Roundup), rodenticides, herbicides, defoliants, growth regulators, and adjuvants.

Read the label for each material.

Non-Restricted vs. Restricted Material

NON-RESTRICTED MATERIALS

Non-restricted materials are generally the least problematic, and so have the fewest requirements.

An **Operator Identification Number**, issued by the Ag Commissioner's Office, allows the application of non-restricted materials to the fields listed on the permit.

Growers do not need to be certified applicators to apply non-restricted materials, but do if they are training employees (fieldworkers or pesticide handlers).

REPORTING

California requires 100% use reporting—all materials applied for ag production **must be reported**, with the exception of fertilizers and soil amendments. This includes all pesticides (including sulfur and Roundup), rodenticides, herbicides, defoliants, growth regulators, and adjuvants. You **must** send these pesticide use reports (PUR's) to the agricultural commissioner by the 10th day of the month following the month the pesticide application was made.

RESTRICTED MATERIALS

Some materials are more hazardous than others, even when used according to the label.

A **Restricted Materials Permit**, issued by the Ag Commissioner's Office, allows the application of California-restricted materials to the fields listed on the permit. The permit lists each California restricted material the grower intends to use.

Growers must be certified applicators to apply restricted materials; **Private Applicator Certificates (PAC)** are issued by the Ag Commissioner's Office, other licenses are issued by the state.

Prior to use of California-restricted materials, growers **must** submit a **Notice of Intent (NOI)**. NOI's are required at least 24 hours prior to an application. Certain restricted pesticides will require NOI's of an earlier notification. These conditions are specified on the permit. Inspectors verify that the application rate and method are appropriate for the crop, and evaluate the site. This review is intended to provide an additional margin of safety for workers, the public, and surrounding crops.

Employee Training



If you have employees who handle pesticides or who work in a field where pesticides are applied, you **must** train them **before** they are allowed to handle pesticides or enter a treated field. This includes employees hired through a labor contractor. Growers are sometimes unaware that a worker spot-spraying Roundup is a pesticide handler.

Treated Field: A field is considered treated for 30 days following a pesticide application. Even if the pesticide has a Restricted Entry Interval of a few hours, the field is considered treated for 30 days following the expiration of the Restricted Entry Interval. **Fieldworkers must be trained** before entering a Treated Field.

A qualified person **must** do the training for handlers and/or fieldworkers. You can contact the agricultural office for qualifications.

The fieldworker and handler's written training program **must** describe the materials and information that will be provided, and address specific topics.

Fieldworkers and pesticide handlers **must** be trained every year on pesticides they handle or enter a treated field. If a new pesticide is used then that training needs to be immediately updated. (Blue cards are no longer accepted).

The employer **must** record the date and extent of the training. This training must be verified by the employee's signature. These records are kept the current year and two years after.

The employer **must** display a completed PSIS A-8 whenever employees are working as handlers.

The employer **must** display a completed PSIS A-9 at the field or a central meeting place whenever employees are working as fieldworkers in a "treated field".

The employer **must** display a completed PSIS A-9 at a central location along with decontamination supplies when supplies are located at a permanent location or at a location for 11 or more workers or handlers.

The employer **must** display, within 24 hours of the completion of a pesticide application, the following application specific information and Safety Data Sheets when employees are required to work in treated fields:

Identification of treated area, time and date of application, REI, product name, EPA registration number, active ingredients.

This application specific information **must** be kept for two years.

Minimum Age/Early Entry

Early entry workers and handlers must be at least 18 years old.

Application Exclusion Zone

(Enforcing in January 2018)

For all outdoor production areas, no persons are allowed entry into a treated area or the application exclusion zone. The application exclusion zone is a 0-100 foot area around the application equipment during pesticide application. The size of the application exclusion zone depends on the type of application.

A handler **must** suspend application if a worker or other person is within the application exclusion zone.

Wash Water Requirements

An employer **must** provide one gallon of water for each worker and 3 gallons for each handler and early entry worker as measured at the beginning of the work period.

Eyewash Requirements



An employer **must** provide an eyewash system capable of delivering 0.4 gallons/minute for 15 minutes. If handlers are required to wear eye protection then the employer **must** provide 6 gallons of eyewash water able to flow gently for 15 minutes at the mix/load site or use a pressurized closed system.

Field Posting



The owner or property operator **must** post treated fields when:

1. It is required by the pesticide product labeling, unless access to the field is controlled in a manner that assures no employee (other than the handlers making the application) will enter, work in, remain in, or walk within 1/4 mile during the application and the restricted entry interval.
2. If the (REI) is greater than 48 hours.
3. All greenhouse applications with an REI greater than 4 hours or if label indicates.

Post before application begins; however, do not post unless a pesticide application is scheduled within the next 24 hours.

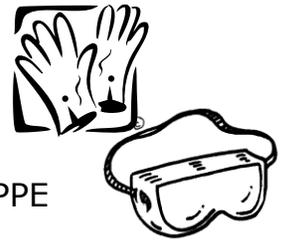
Posting **must** be removed within 3 days after the expiration of the REI.

- General sign requirements for treated fields and greenhouses:
It must be readable from 25 feet.
And contain all of the following:
Skull and Crossbones symbol near the center of the sign
"DANGER" and "PELIGRO"
"PESTICIDES" and "PESTICIDAS"
"KEEP OUT" and "NO ENTRE"
- If the (REI) is more than 7 days, the sign **must** include the following information:
The date of unrestricted entry.
The name of the operator of the property and the field identification
(if any).
- General posting locations for treated fields and greenhouses:
At all usual points of entry, or at the corners. If adjacent to right-of-ways, posted at not greater than **600 foot** intervals.
- Chemigation applications require additional posting information.

Chemigation is a method of irrigation whereby a pesticide is mixed with irrigation water before the water is applied to the crop or to the soil. This is a legal method of applying pesticides if allowed by the registered pesticide labeling and when used in a manner consistent with that labeling.

Safety Equipment

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)



The employer **must** provide the employee with **regulation** required PPE (i.e. protective eyewear, gloves). PPE **must** be clean.

The employer **must** provide the employee with the **label** required clean PPE (i.e. long-sleeved shirt, footwear, headgear, aprons and other protective clothing).

Eye protection is required, by regulation, for all “hand applications”. See PSIS A-1 for some exceptions. Eye wear must meet minimum standards, with brow and side protection and marked and rated to meet ANSI z87.1.

Protective gloves are required by regulation, unless the label states otherwise. See PSIS A-1 for some exceptions. Gloves must meet minimum standards, of at least 14 mil thickness, with limited exceptions.

Employers **must** assure employees are provided with and use approved respiratory protective equipment when pesticide product labeling or regulations require respirators. See next page: Respirator Requirements.

PPE for “Danger” or “Warning” Label Pesticides

Identify the Signal word, indicating the level of immediate toxicity to humans DANGER > WARNING > CAUTION, in decreasing order of toxicity.

Coveralls **must** be used when an employee handles a pesticide with the signal word “DANGER” or “WARNING” on the label.

Exceptions include: use of a closed system or working from an enclosed cab or cockpit.

A chem-proof suit **must** not be worn when temperatures exceed 80°F (or 85°F after sunset).

Using “Danger” Label Pesticides

A closed system is required only for liquid-formulation pesticides with the signal word “Danger”, as well as minimal exposure pesticides.

Employees mixing, loading, or applying pesticides in toxicity category I (Danger), may not work alone unless contact is made at least every 2 hours, unless the permit specifies otherwise.

For nighttime, the interval is one hour. A pilot, mixer/loader, and/or flagger team would be considered working together. Two ground applicators in the same field are OK, if they can see one another’s vehicle.

Respirator Requirements



Employers must assure that employees use respirators when required by label, restricted material permit condition or regulation.

Voluntary Respirator Provision. An employer may provide respirators to employees or allow employees to use their own respirators on a voluntary basis. Under an *employer-supplied* voluntary respirator provision, the employer must implement a minimal written respiratory protection program. A written program is *not* required when a voluntary respirator program only involves the use of filtering facepiece (also known as an n-8).

Medical Evaluation. The employer shall identify a physician or other licensed health care professional to conduct medical evaluations to determine an employee's ability to wear a respirator, confidentially, using the medical questionnaire found online or at your agricultural commissioner's office. This needs to be done once in the employee's career with the company unless adverse health effects arise, requiring additional evaluations.

Fit Testing. Annual fit test

Training and Information. Training shall be conducted prior to an employee using a respirator and again if needed.

Program Evaluation. The employer shall annually consult (and document) employees views on program effectiveness and to identify any problems.

Recordkeeping. The employer shall retain written information regarding medical recommendations, fit testing, and the respirator program. Records shall be maintained while the employee is required to use a respirator, and for three years after the end of employment conditions requiring the use of a respirator.

It is the employer's responsibility to understand the respirator regulations and to implement the applicable portions at the worksite.

Employers **must** ensure handlers are wearing label specified respiratory protection when in enclosed cabs with air filtration. Except when the only label-specified respiratory protection is a filtering facepiece. (These filtering facepieces are identified as NIOSH TC-84A)



Medical Care Information

Emergency medical care for employees handling pesticides and fieldworkers who enter fields that have been treated with pesticides **must** be planned for in advance.

If employees are handling pesticides, the medical care information **must** be posted at a prominent place at the work site. Fieldworkers and their supervisors are to be informed of this information, which is provided on PSIS A-9.

In either case, if the medical care facility is not readily available, procedures to be followed to obtain immediate medical care **must** be given.

If any employee has become ill or thought to have been exposed to a pesticide which might lead to an illness, the employer **must** ensure the employee is **taken** to a doctor immediately.

Additional Medical Records & Respiratory Protection Program

The use of carbamates and organophosphates with "Warning" or "Danger" labels may require special medical supervision, record keeping and equipment.

Decontamination Facilities



For handlers, the employer **must** assure that sufficient water, soap, and single use towels are available.

If the product label requires protective eyewear, then a minimum of one pint of water for emergency eye washing **must** be immediately available.

If coveralls are being used, the employer **must** make provisions to store and clean the coveralls. Employees should not be taking coveralls home, unless it is necessary. It is recommended that the work clothes be kept in a sturdy, sealed container, until they can be properly washed at the work facility.

For fieldworkers engaged in activities in treated fields the employer **must** assure that sufficient water, soap and single use towels are reasonably accessible.

If supplies are at a permanent site or there is 11 or more workers or handlers, a hazard communication (PSIS a-9) **must** be posted at the decontamination site.

Change Areas

The decontamination facility **must** be within 1/4 mile of worker activity. The facility can be in an area under a REI for a fieldworker performing early entry activities. In no case can the facility be in an area under treatment.

Equipment Maintenance

The employer **must** inspect all application equipment and make sure that it is in good condition and safe to operate prior to any application.

For example, mixing tanks **must** have covers to prevent splashes and spills. Tanks 50 gallons or greater **must** be equipped with either a sight gauge to indicate the liquid level in the tank, or a shut-off device that will automatically stop the filling operation before the pesticide liquid mixture spills over the top.

The employer **must** provide a closed system for employees who handle liquid pesticides with the signal word "DANGER" and for minimal exposure pesticides. See PSIS A-10 for the minimal exposure pesticides.

Equipment & Container Storage



Storage

PPE must be stored separately from pesticides and application equipment, to prevent contamination.

If pesticide is transferred to a service container during use, this secondary container should be marked with the pesticide name, signal word, and the name, address, and phone number of responsible party.

To prevent accidental poisonings, **Do not put pesticides in containers designated for food, drink, or household products.** Children are especially vulnerable to poisonings when familiar bottles or jars contain pesticides.

Never transport pesticides in the same compartment of a vehicle containing persons, food or animal feed.

Pesticides **must** remain locked up when not attended. The storage of pesticides must have distinct separation from other stored materials.

The storage **must** be posted with warning signs, when the stored pesticides have the signal word, "Danger" or "Warning".

Signs must be visible from any direction of probable approach, and be readable at 25 feet.

Example _____

**DANGER
POISON STORAGE AREA
ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS KEEP OUT
KEEP DOOR LOCKED WHEN NOT IN USE**

The notice shall be repeated in an appropriate language other than English when it may reasonably be anticipated that persons who do not understand the English language will come to the enclosure.

Disposal Procedures

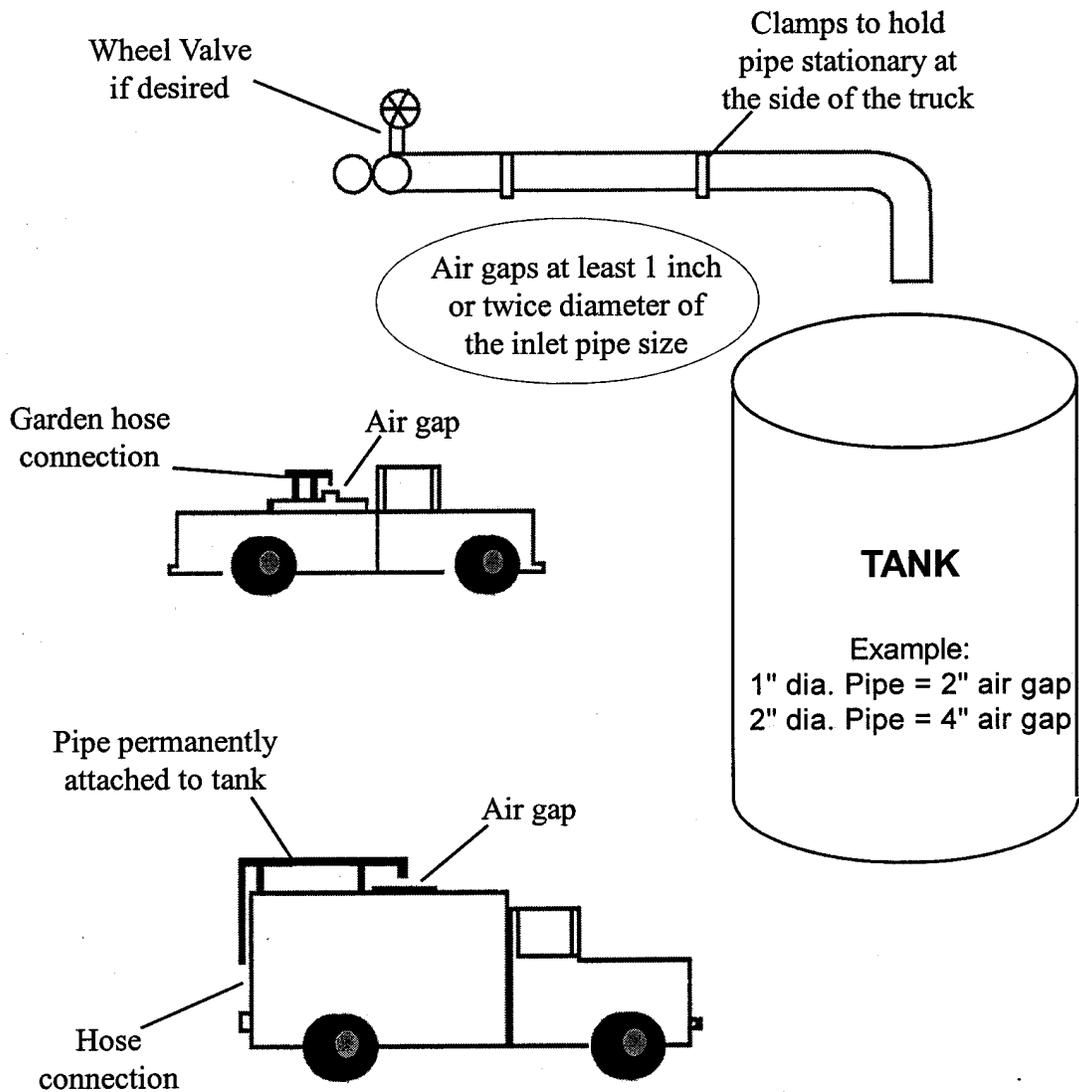
Containers of less than 28 gallons **must** be rinsed and drained at the mix and load site. Except for the containers to be returned to the registrant, follow the directions provided in PSIS A-2.

Do not refill or reuse original containers. Destroy canisters and discard in a sanitary landfill.

Air Gap

All application equipment **must** have an air-gap separation permanently affixed to the equipment. The gap needs to be at least a one inch separation. Backpack type spray equipment with a capacity not exceeding 4 gallons and hand-held sprayers of 3 gallons or less are exempt. They may be filled by hand holding a hose over the tank. The hose must be held well above the tank at all times to prevent contact with the tank or its contents.

EXAMPLE OF AIR-GAP SEPARATION



Remember:

THIS IS A GENERAL GUIDE.

LAWS AND REGULATIONS ARE PERIODICALLY UPDATED.

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE FOR KNOWING THE LAWS & REGULATIONS THAT GOVERN PESTICIDE USE.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS,
CONTACT YOUR AREA AGRICULTURAL PESTICIDE BIOLOGIST.



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