



## PPE Requirements

*Findings from a recent illness investigation*

Doctors are required by law to report all suspected pesticide illnesses to the State, who in turn assign them to the appropriate Commissioner's office to investigate.

One of our recent cases involved a company that supplied their employees with face shields for eye protection thinking they were going above and beyond the label requirements. The label, however, had restrictive language stating, "Wear safety glasses or goggles".

**PRECAUTIONARY STATEMENTS**  
HAZARDS TO HUMANS AND DOMESTIC ANIMALS

**DANGER:** Corrosive, may cause severe skin and eye irritation or chemical burns to broken skin. Causes eye damage. Wear safety glasses or goggles, and rubber gloves when handling this

Please be aware that when labels state specific items to be worn, employers cannot deviate from those requirements. If you should have any questions about protective safety equipment or label requirements, call your District Biologist!

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## On-Line Pesticide Use Reporting

*Jump online, save a stamp and time!*

There was a recently published "ranking" of on-line pesticide use reporting by County. Santa Clara County is at 40.6%! Which is a big jump from last year, so to all of you that jumped on-line, THANK YOU! For all of you that have thought: "I wonder if that would be easier?" – Please give us a call and we'll help you out.

Excerpt taken from the list:

<u>County</u>	<u>% reported electronically</u>
San Benito	92 %
Napa	82 %
Santa Cruz	59 %
Alameda	61 %
San Mateo	57 %
<b>Santa Clara</b>	<b>40 %</b>
Contra Costa	39 %

Grand Total for the State: 67%

There are several third party software providers who have completed pesticide use report submission interfaces with the State use reporting system, so hopefully it will be even easier to report!

We will personally help you set up your on-line reporting. Call today to set up your FREE appointment with our On-Line Use Reporting expert. We will set you up with a log-in name, password, and details of how to submit your monthly use reports.

For information about on-line pesticide use reporting, please contact Biologist Kristian Barbeau at: [Kristian.Barbeau@cep.sccgov.org](mailto:Kristian.Barbeau@cep.sccgov.org) or you can reach him at his desk: (408) 201-0650.

# New Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulations

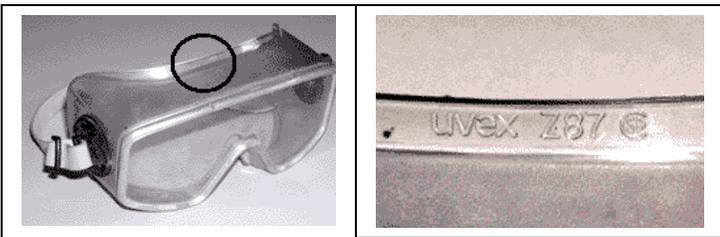
Title 3, California Code of Regulations 6738.1 - 6738.4

If you've attended any recent continuing education seminars, you've likely heard there are new PPE regulations on the books. These new code sections specify the type of safety equipment that can be given to employees.

## Eye Protection: z87.1 rating

The most important aspect of protective eyewear, is just that...- it protects the eyes. Employees must wear eyewear that conforms to their face and provides brow and temple protection.

So, what is all this talk about the ANSI z87 rating? ANSI stands for the American National Standards Institute. DPR has adopted the Federal standard z87.1 rating into the California regulations for employee eye protection.



What does this mean for employees? If the glasses, goggles or face shield is marked with Z87.1 or just Z87 then it would meet this Federal standard for the type of protective eyewear. Most safety glasses already bear the Z87 mark on the frame and/or the lenses. You can also buy Z87 frames with corrective reading lenses built in. Please note that just because a pair of safety glasses bears this mark, doesn't mean it's a "fits all" type of eyewear. All protective eyewear must provide brow and temple protection and you need to make sure the glasses fit your employee properly and are comfortable for them to wear.

## Gloves: Category, Thickness, Liners, & Leather

Just like the protective eyewear provision, if the label specifies "must be" then only gloves made of the material stated on the label can be worn. If the label does not specify, or says "such as", "wear chemical resistant" or "any waterproof gloves" then gloves made of 14 mil nitrile, butyl, neoprene, etc. or other chemically resistant material are acceptable.

If a pesticide label states "wear Category A gloves", you can find what kind of materials qualify by looking in the

## *Gloves Continued:*

new Regulations. (See 6738.3(a) has all the details.) <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/legbills/calcode/030302.htm#a6738.3>

In addition to the type of material, the new code section specifies that all glove materials must be 14 mils or thicker. -Except for barrier laminate or polyethylene materials, which don't have a specified thickness. The standard 4 mil nitrile gloves we have seen in the field will no longer be acceptable. - (And, we have already been asked... - No, you cannot wear 4 pairs of thin gloves to make up for the 14 mil thickness!)

But don't throw away those 4 mil gloves yet. The thinner gloves can be worn, but only when an employee's task requires high dexterity, such as fixing small O rings or nozzles that would be difficult with a thick glove. In instances like this, employees may wear a thinner glove with conditions. - It must be made out of the appropriate barrier material, they can't use them for longer than 15 minutes, and the glove must be discarded after use.

## Glove Liners:

DPR's new rule now allows employees to wear glove liners under chemically resistant gloves as long as they are not attached to each other. (Flocked or lined gloves are still not allowed.)



- The liners can be made of cotton or other absorbent material.
- The liners cannot stick out past the end of the chemical resistant glove.
- The liners must be immediately removed and thrown away if they come into contact with any pesticide.
- They must be disposed of at the end of the day.

## Leather Gloves:

If you work with thorny material while spraying, then leather gloves can be worn over chemical resistant gloves. The leather gloves can be reused but they must never be worn without being worn over chemical-resistant gloves.

*Continued on the next page*

## New Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulations continued:

Although not new, DPR has reorganized and reworded Section 6738 which covers personal protective equipment care. Please visit the link given under the gloves section to review all of 6738 and its subsections.

The most important things to keep in mind with §6738 are:

- All PPE is the property of the employer and must not be taken home without specific instructions to keep it separate from the employee's personal living space. (For example, in the case if an employee drives their truck home each day and they wear coveralls as their work uniform.)
- Employers must assure that when PPE isn't in use, it's kept separate from personal clothing and in a clean and pesticide-free designated place. (We see many companies use plastic tubs to satisfy this requirement.)
- If PPE such as gloves are contaminated, they must be washed with soap and water and either dried thoroughly before being stored or they are put in a well-ventilated place to dry.
- You must relay information about what chemicals have been in your spray equipment to any firm or person that is hired to clean or repair your equipment. (See Section 6744 for details)

## Pesticide Safety Information Series (PSIS) Updates

DPR has revised the PSIS leaflets. The redesigned leaflets have updated graphics, were reorganized to enhance clarity, and reformatted for ease of readability when viewed on a tablet or smartphone.

In addition, PSIS A-5 wasn't revised until now to reflect the changes in respirator regulations. So, be sure to print out all of the pamphlets so you are prepared for your Employee Headquarter Inspection:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/whs/psisenglish.htm>

Lastly, the Proposition 65 list of pesticides known by the State to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity was updated and is available at:

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/factshts/prop65.htm>

## Proposed Changes to Nighttime Lighting

*Title 8, Division 1, Chapter 4, Sections 3441 & 3449*

These regulation changes are still being discussed and we have heard they will be open to public comment early in the new year. If you are interested in voicing your comments or concerns about nighttime lighting, be sure to watch this website for when they post the opportunity to be heard:

[http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/Agricultural\\_operations\\_between\\_sunset\\_to\\_sunrise\\_illumination\\_2nd\\_AC.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/Agricultural_operations_between_sunset_to_sunrise_illumination_2nd_AC.html)  
(Under Quick Links on the right hand side of webpage, click on "Standards Board public hearings")

### What will change?

An advisory committee recommended these subsections be added to Title 8, Sections 3441 & 3449. (Found in the Post Committee Meeting Documents)

Title 8, Section 3441:

(g) All tractors, self-propelled farm equipment, and trucks used between sunset and sunrise shall be equipped with at least one headlight which shall be used to illuminate the area in front of the equipment at least 50 feet. There shall be at least one rear light which shall illuminate equipment at the rear.

Note to subsection (g): See Section 3449 for illumination requirements for working near agricultural equipment during hours of darkness.

Proposed changes to Title 8, Section 3449 (a):

(a) Illumination. Outdoor agricultural operations taking place between sunset and sunrise shall be illuminated at levels no less than the levels stated in Table 1.

(1) If needed to comply with subsection (a), the employer shall provide and maintain hands free portable personal lighting in addition to area lighting in order to achieve illumination levels listed in Table 1.

(b) Safety meetings. Supervisory employees shall conduct a safety meeting at the beginning of each shift to inform employees of the location of the restrooms, drinking water, designated break areas, nearby water bodies, and high traffic areas.

(c) The employer shall provide and require workers to wear Class 2 high visibility garments....

To see the proposal and details listed in Table 1, visit this posting on the California Department of Labor's website (the new language is underlined):

[http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/Agricultural\\_operations\\_between\\_sunset\\_to\\_sunrise\\_illumination\\_2nd\\_AC\\_postproptxt.pdf](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/documents/Agricultural_operations_between_sunset_to_sunrise_illumination_2nd_AC_postproptxt.pdf)

# 2015 Pesticide Scares

*DPR compiled pesticide illnesses*

DPR compiled a short list of pesticide-related scares. They include unnecessary sicknesses, hospitalizations, and brushes with death. The names have been withheld to protect people's identities.



## A painful lesson

In June, the San Diego County Agricultural Commissioner's Office received a report from California Poison Control about a homeowner hospitalized with second- and third-degree burns. The man was injured by a herbicide he applied to control weeds on his lawn.

Investigators determined he had purchased a concentrated herbicide for weeds and grass at a hardware store and then transferred it from its original container into another, empty herbicide bottle. The latter had contained a diluted "ready to use" glyphosate herbicide.

During the application, the concentrated herbicide leaked onto the man's ungloved hands. The next day, he noticed blistering on his hands and, days later, went to an urgent care center where he was treated with antibiotics. The man's symptoms worsened and he was referred by the clinic to a dermatologist.

Finally, a week after he spilled it on his hands, he went to a hospital burn center and was immediately admitted. He underwent three surgeries to reconstruct his hands with skin grafts from his legs. He was released from the hospital two weeks later.

The San Diego Ag Commissioner's investigation determined the homeowner did not wear personal protective equipment required by the herbicide's label. He also failed to use a measuring device when mixing the herbicide. The take away message here is to follow label instructions for any pesticide and don't transfer to a container with the wrong application instructions on it.

## Dangerous drink

In August 2014, a 55-year-old man mistakenly ingested two ounces of chlorpyrifos, an insecticide, thinking it was water.

The Contra Costa County Agricultural Commissioner's Office investigated and learned the farm-machinery mechanic had taken it from his workplace and put it in a drinking container in his lunch pail. He intended to use it to treat a tree at his home. He ended up being so sick that he had to miss three days of work.

Since the mechanic worked in San Joaquin County, the San Joaquin County Agricultural Commissioner's Office followed up with his employer. They determined the pesticides were stored properly and locked up at the business.

It's not clear if he had permission to take the pesticide from his workplace. **[This is a good example to use in your training with your employees. - Don't take pesticides home!]**

Moral of the story: Don't store pesticides in food or drink containers, or vice versa. It is illegal, it is not smart and it is dangerous.

## Miserable bed bug encounter

On Sept. 11, the Los Angeles County Agricultural Commissioner's Office learned about a 54-year-old man exposed to Raid Ant and Roach Killer while trying to control bedbugs. He'd applied a can and a half to his living room carpet. After sitting down and watching the TV, he fell asleep. When he awoke, he had double vision, a headache and fever.

He was admitted to a local medical center suffering symptoms including a burning sensation on his face, diarrhea, vomiting and sweating. He was hospitalized for three days.

Investigators concluded that the man should not have used this pesticide as Raid Ant and Roach Killer is not approved for bed bug treatment. Commissioner's Office staff talked with the man about the importance reading a pesticide's label before using it.

These stories all have a clear message for consumers; always follow all the rules and instructions that come with the pesticides. Use these chemicals with caution. Don't store pesticides in other containers

In all three stories the County Agricultural Commissioners' staff decided that even though there were some legal violations, the victims had suffered enough and decided not to press charges.